

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
http://ageconsearch.umn.edu
aesearch@umn.edu

Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.

604

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



JUNE, 1942.

Vol. 8

No. 6

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

SYDNEY

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 CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

JUNE, 1942.

<u>Vol. 8</u>		No. 6
Table of Contents		Page
Collins in the land of the print of the second		
Highlights		126
Marketing Australian Primary Products - Effects of War Conditions thereon		127
Fish (Frozen) - Transport and Marketing		131
Farm Prices - Increases in United Kingdom		133
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush		136
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Markets		142
Alexandria and Sussex Street Sales		145
Commodity Prices in Sydney		1.48
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into		740
New South Wales	distance and	149
Graph - Tomatoes - Channels of Distribution		150
A PART OF THE PART		d.

Articles or other matter appearing herein may be reproduced subject to due acknowledgment being made of the source.

HIGHLIGHTS.

Estimated 3,300,000 acres sown to wheat in New South Wales this season. Substantial reduction in acreage compared with last year largely attributable to dry conditions during part of sowing season, shortage of labor and rationing of superphosphate.

Egg Marketing Board reduces pool stabilisation charge from 2d to 1d per dozen from 1st June, 1942. This charge has only exceeded 1d per dozen for periods aggregating 15 months during 132 years the Board has operated.

Chief Secretary of New South Pales introduces legislation to Parliament to render more effective control of selling fish in City of Sydney Municipal Fish Larkets.

Minister for Commerce announces plan to be submitted to Federal Cabinet to pay wheat farmers 4/- per bushel at country sidings for the first 5,000 bushels of wheat delivered.

Retail margins on the sales of apples and pears have been fixed at a maximum of 50 per cent over cost for small quantities under an order recently issued by the Australian Apple and Pear Board. On half-bushel lots the maximum margin is 33 per cent. and on bushel lots 25 per cent.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON THE MARKETING OF AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY PRODUCTS:

In the May issue of the Review certain extracts were published from evidence tendered by A.A. Watson, Esq., Chief of the Division of Marketing, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales, before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee on Rural Industries on 11th March, 1942. Other extracts from such evidence are given hereunder:-

WHEAT.

An indication of the serious position confronting wheat growers in New South Wales during 1939 is given by the New South Wales Government Statistician's official records, which show the average value of wheat for the year as 2/7 per bushel, Sydney basis. In the previous year (1938) it had been necessary for the Commonwealth Government to assist wheat growers on account of low returns and in respect of the excise year ended 30th November, 1939, £1,042,281 was distributed to wheat growers in New South Wales from the proceeds of the Flour Tax. This money was made available on the basis of a payment of approximately 42d per bushel on the quantity of 1938-39 wheat sold or delivered for sale. In addition, an amount of £287,000 was paid to growers whose crops failed entirely or yielded less than 9 bushels per acro. Shortly after the outbreak of war the Commonwealth Government appointed an Australian Wheat Board to control the marketing of wheat in Australia during the war.

The following statement gives particulars of wheat pool advances made by the Board in respect of the crops which it has so far handled.

Advance	1938-39	ance Harvest Pool)		Harvest		Harvest		Harvest	
	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	Bulk	Bagged	
First(a) Second Third Final	s.d. per bush. 2.0 0.6 0.1.75 0.0.16	s. d. per bush. 2. 0 0. 8 0. 1.75 0. 0.16	s.d. per bush. 2.8± 0.4 0.3	s. d. per bush. 2.10 0.4 0.3 0.1	a. d. per bush. 2.102 0. 4 0. 3	s. d. per bush. 3. 0 0. 4 0. 3	s. d. per bush. (c)2.10	s. d. per bush. (c)3. 0	
otal of dvances	2. 7.91	2. 9.91	3. 4 8	3. 68	(b)3。5章	3.7(b)		14 Pro-	
otal mount dvanced	£2,42	7,000			(b)£11,1		(b)£21,000,000		
wantity cquired	bus 17,84	1000	bus 195,44			sh. 32,000	bush. (d)142,000,000		

Notes:

(a) From which rail freight was deducted.

(b) Total advance to date.(c) Approved for payment.

(d) Estimated quantity to be acquired.

In announcing approval for the first advance on the 1941-42 harvest the Minister for Commerce stated that the estimated quantity of wheat to be acquired this season would be about 142 million bushels, of which 80 million bushels would be bulk wheat and 62 million bushels of bagged wheat. From this quantity it was expected that 100 to 110 million bushels would be available for export but, in the present difficult circumstances, the greater part of this would have to be stored in Australia.

A scheme to stabilise the wheat industry was introduced by the Commonwealth Government in terms of the National Security (Wheat Industries Stabilisation) Regulations issued on 29th November, 1940, to be inaugurated in respect of the 1941-42 harvest.

The principal features of the plan are:-

- (1) There will be a guaranteed price of 3/10d per bushel f.o.b. ports for bagged wheat and 3/8d per bushel for bulk wheat in respect of an acquired crop of 140,000,000 bushels.
- (2) A fund is created, into which surplus market realisations will be paid in years of high price to meet debits resulting from payments to the industry in years of low price.
- (3) Surplus realisations over and above guaranteed prices will be shared equally between the Wheat Industry (War-Time) Stabilisation Fund and the producers. All wheat harvested as grain will be marketed through the Australian Wheat Board.
- (4) Existing wheat farms to be registered and wheat growers licensed to grow wheat on registered farms. Properties on which wheat was not grown formerly to be ineligible for registration.

The scheme further provides that licensed growers are required to undertake that they will only sow the acreage allotted to them.

A marketable crop of 140,000,000 bushels, equivalent to a total crop of about 160,000,000 bushels was approximately the average Australian crop during the six seasons ended 1939-40.

In view of the events of the past few weeks in the Pacific sphere of war operations the Australian Wheat Board and the Commonwealth Government are beset with a problem of major

importance in relation to the disposal of Australia's exportable surplus. The average Australian production of wheat for the 10 years ended 1941 was 164,720,000 bushels. The annual consumption within Australia including quantities required for seed, conversion to flour for local requirements, stock feeding and other purposes is approximately 55,000,000 bushels. If a normal crop is harvested this season and if there is no alleviation of the present shipping restrictions, available storage accommodation will be taxed to the limit.

The Commonwealth Government already has this matter under notice and within the last few days has announced important decisions on the question, including a decision to provide for the restriction of production in Western Australia to 22,000,000 bushels.

There appears no satisfactory alternative to Government control of the wheat industry during war-time. If there were no such control at present, the price of wheat would no doubt be at such a low level that it would be impracticable for wheat-growers to carry on their operations.

PIGS.

Since the outbreak of war the pig industry has had to face problems which are fundamentally different from those of the cattle industry and the effect of the war has at times been marked. The pig population of New South Wales has increased considerably of late, although at the present moment it is probably declining owing to drought and other adverse circumstances. Just prior to the war producers were advised by the Commonwealth to increase production as the British Government had given favourable consideration to the question of purchasing Australian experts of pig products. Prices on the whole, although irregular, had been satisfactory and at times were undoubtedly too high. Recorded totals of pigs in New South Wales during the years 1938, 1939 and 1940 were 356,765, 377,344 and 451,064. Slaughterings in principal houses from 1938/39 to 1940/41 were 437,127, 444,820 and 550,905, respectively.

The outbreak of war had little effect on the prices of porkers but values of baconers rose. A contract was entered into with the British Government, the terms of which wore satisfactory to producers in Australia and probably as a result of this the market was mostly a good one during 1940, despite increased supplies. During the autumn of 1941 the industry experienced a setback. Supplies had been increasing and the British Government declared pork more a luxury than a necessity. It banned the importation of heavy baconer pigs, leading to a stampede amongst Australian producers to market their pigs before they reached

these weights. The results were disastrous for many, and prices declined to unremunerative levels for practically all classes of pigs.

The industry, however, gradually made a recovery. Concessions were obtained from the British Government and canning overcame much of the difficulty in disposing of heavier pigs. By November, 1941, values generally were very satisfactory, despite heavy consignments. Japan's entry into the war caused another but much less severe setback. Confidence was again restored, however, after a short period and during February last baconer pigs realised the highest prices since the last war. This very satisfactory position from the producer's point of view has been brought about by the increased demand for army purposes particularly as the result of canning activities covering a wider scope of operations. Exports of headless porker sides and Wiltshire bacon sides are still permissible but it is understood that these are negligible and practically all pig products are being consumed locally.

Apart from the setbacks mentioned, it may be stated that the effect of the present war on the pig industry has so far been a beneficial one. All producers, however, have not shared alike in the benefits. Where drought has made it difficult to secure food supplies producers have been forced to market their pigs as stores. Many Western producers are reported to be solling out altogether. On the other hand, Metropolitan producers and feeders have been able to obtain increased supplies of foodstuffs as the result of the establishment of military camps and thus are reaping the benefit. The future position of the industry is, of course, clouded with uncertainty having in mind possible events.

VICTORIAN POTATO CROP.

Information recently received from the Department of Agriculture, Victoria, states that the area under potatoes in Victoria for the current season is estimated by that Department at 30,000 acres as compared with 43,077 acres planted in 1940/41.

The exceptionally mild weather during April, 1942, facilitated growth and benefited the late crop considerably. On present indications it is estimated that the average yield for the State will be 4½ to 4½ tons per agre, bringing the aggregate yield to approximately 130,000 tons.

Description of FROZEN FISH

The following interesting notes on the transport and marketing of frozen fish are contained in a Circular just issued by the Division of Food Preservation and Transport of the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research regarding the application of refrigeration to the Australian fishing industry:

"If precautions are taken to keep bacterial infection to a minimum, good quality quick-frozen fish stored at low temperature can be expected on thawing to keep as well as fresh fish. It should be possible to remove boxes of properly packed fillets from cold store and keep them at ordinary temperatures for some hours before thawing occurs. Such packing would allow of distribution throughout a metropolitan area, but would probably not be sufficient for transport over greater distances. Some form of refrigerated transport is necessary when fish is to be transported to great distances from the cold store.

Heavily insulated spaces which have been precooled can be used successfully for carrying fish in the frezen condition. The period of time for which fish can be kept frezen in such a space after removal from the store depends on the efficiency of the insulation, the initial temperature inside the container, and the temperature of the surroundings. The insulation should be uniformly good over the container to prevent excessive heat leakage at any point and possible speilage of the contents. The thickness of insulation recommended for temperatures around 10 F. is seven inches, and the container must be able to stand up to severe treatment and it must be easy to handle and clean. It is cheaper to insulate a large container than several small ones of the same capacity, but other conditions may make it desirable to use finall containers.

If heavy insulation alone is not sufficient to meet the situation, refrigerants which have properties similar to ice may be added to the space to keep the temperature down. Ordinary ice which has a melting point of 32°F is satisfactory for holding temperatures around 40°F., but lower temperatures are usually required for the transport of fish. The addition of common salt to ice is one means of depressing the melting point below 32°F., and this method has been used in many applications.

When these refrigerants are used in the conventional way in insulated compartments on trucks, there is considerable danger of damage from water or brine penetration of the insulation and other similar troubles. Some of these disadvantages have been evercome by the development of special eutectics which are obtainable in closed containers and which are designed to held a specified temperature in the carrying space. Various methods have been developed for freezing these low temperature units. Each container may be removed from the space and freeze in a special

/froozor

freezer, but this method has the disadvantage of considerable handling. A further development is the inclusion of refrigorant coils inside the container. These may be permanently connected to a small compressor and condensing unit carried on the truck and operated whonever suitable power is available, or they may have special unions for connection to a large plant at a central station. The system chosen will depend on the number of trucks to be operated and the service available on the transport route.

Several systems of mechanical refrigeration which do not depend on external power supply have been tried on trucks. The success of these depends largely on adequate supervision and maintenance of the equipment and on costs in the particular circumstances of operation. Mechanical refrigeration with outcotic hold-over is likely to be the best arrangement for long distances and peak loads which exceed the capacity of mechanical refrigeration alone. The hold-over system also has the advantage of maintaining low temperature at times of mechanical breakdown. The application of adequate insulation ensures a big saving in running costs, especially when there is a long period between the closing and opening of the refrigerated space.

'Dry ice' (solid carbon dioxide) has some important advantages where low temperatures are required in insulated spaces for transport and especially in small containers. If dry ice is to be used to the best advantage in holding a uniform low temperature in freight compartments on trucks, some care must be taken in providing suitable equipment. Methods are being developed to control the rate at which the dry ice is evaporated and to provide for uniform temperature throughout the insulated space. At present the main disadvantage with dry ice is its restriction to a few centres of supply and its consequent high price. Dry ice is the only convenient refrigerant for holding low temperature in small packages while they are out of cold store for short periods. The usual method is to add it to a small compartment at the top of the package which is designed to provide as much insulation as possible in the circumstances.

----0000000-----

The generally unfavourable pastoral position in New South Wales was relieved over a large section of the State by good rains towards the close of May. Fortunately, the falls were followed by relatively mild weather, with the result that a good growth of pasture has been promoted. Water supplies have also been replenished, and in many districts the winter months can be faced with confidence. In a number of areas, however, noticeably in the northern part of the State, rainfall was light and of no lasting benefit. Feed in these areas is rather dry and scanty.

NEW FARM PRICES - INCREASES TO MEET HIGHER COSTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Hereunder is copy of a letter received from the Acting Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, under the above heading:

"I desire to inform you that the Minister of Agriculture has now announced the new prices for 1942 crops and livestock adjusted to meet the increased costs now incurred by farmers as a result of the increase in the national minimum wage for farm workers and other outgoings

The price for wheat will be increased from 14s.6d. to 16s. a cwt. As regards eats, the maximum prices at the beginning of the current season were 13s.9d. for milling eats and 13s.6d. for feeding costs. The corresponding prices for eats of the 1942 harvest will be 14s.9d. and 14s.6d. The maximum price of rye will be raised to 15s.6d. a cwt. A maximum price is to be fixed for malting barley. The maximum price of feeding barley will be raised to 14s.6d. a cwt. These prices all refer to crops from the 1942 harvest.

Potato growers will be allowed an increased return of approximately 5s. a ton compared with what they obtained for the 1941 crop. Prices for sugar beet and flax to be grown in 1942 have already been announced.

Graduated adjustments will be made in the next few months to fat cattle prices designed to secure an over-all average increase of 6s.6d. a live cwt. in a full year. Apart from possible minor adjustments, there will be no price increase for fat cows, bulls and calves. An increase averaging lad a 1b. over a full year will be made in the prices of fat sheep and lambs. There will be no increase in the price of fat ewes and rams.

From February 23rd, the price of clean pigs and rigs will be increased by ls. a score. There will be no price increase for sows or other classes of pigs: Prices for the 1942 wool clip will be adjusted so as to give an average increase of 2d a lb. over the whole range of prices. The prices of eggs delivered to packing stations will be raised by an amount representing an average increase of 10d per 120 in the year beginning March 5th.

The question of milk prices for the year beginning April 1, 1942, is receiving urgent consideration in connection with the proposals put forward by the Milk Marketing Board and the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales for a new price structure for England and Wales.

The Minister for Agriculture has declared that he believed that this sottlement represents fair play all round and the /leaders....

leaders of the National Farmers' Union have agreed that subject to an early settlement of milk prices, these price changes fulfil the Government's pledges to the farmer in the letter and the spirit.

It cannot be said that the new prices have been received with any great enthusiasm by farmers. Many had the idea that the increases required to meet the higher wages bill and other mounting costs would be much larger than the new prices indicate. Indeed the trouble about reaching a just settlement was the lack of proof about farmers' costs now or at any past time.

The problem was solved with the goodwill of the leaders of the National Farmers' Union, who considered all the figures prepared by the Government to show farm incomes and costs and agreed to accept the bare price increases required to fulfil the Government's pledge and cover the estimated increased costs. The Minister for Agriculture and Secretary of State for Scotland were then able to convince their Cabinet colleagues that a settlement on this basis would be no more than fair to farmers and not unfair to taxpayers who have to meet the bill.

This, it is reported, may add £20 million to the Exchequer's present liability in grants, subsidies, etc., to aid agriculture and to limit consumers' food costs during the war.

It appears that wheat, fat sheep and wool, sugar beet and flax have been treated comparatively generously, and no doubt this will be true of milk when the new prices are fixed. The delay in settling milk prices was due to the proposed introduction of a national basic price for the next contract year, to run from April 1, instead of the differential prices for the regions, which are a relic of pre-war pooling days.

Farmers thought that this question which is a domestic one, had been settled some weeks ago on the advice of the Milk Markoting Board and the N.F.U. The delay, causing uncertainty, is unfortunate, but it is known that the Ministry of Food is most anxious to encourage maximum milk production, and dairy farmers need have no doubts about receiving a full share of the price increases now to be allowed to agriculture.

One farm product is due to fall in price. This is malting barley. The maximum price for the 1942 crop, which many farmers think should not be above 120s. a quarter, will be announced shortly, so that farmers may know where they stand. Seed barley, now quoted up to 380s. a quarter, makes the crop an expensive gamble and some who intended to grow barley will now probably plant spring wheat or oats instead.

If a concensus of opinion by leading press agricultural correspondents so far published accurately reflects the opinion

/among....

among the industry itself, it may safely be stated that the new prices will be received with satisfaction by a majority in practically every branch of the industry.

Some farmers will inevitably grumble about these new prices, e.g., arable farmers engaged in cereal production of different kinds will doubtless think that higher prices than decided upon should have been fixed for this class of produce, but from the evidence available, almost all should now be able to make a fair living and possibly indeed have a small margin to spare.

In wartime farmers have the assurance of prices and markets guaranteed by the Government for almost all their produce, an asset which is not always rated at its full value. A few may still be hard pressed but if this should be the case, they will get assistance from the War Agricultural Committees; obviously, it would have been unsound to raise prices to a level that would meet every claim.

The general effect which the new prices may have upon an industry now embracing 300,000 farmers is described by a leading agricultural commentator as follows -

A minority of farmers will pay more Excess Profits Tax. The great majority will find their increased costs covered, and inevitably a small percentage - probably less than a tenth of the whole and consisting of producers who have to contend with poor land, lack of equipment or insufficient technical knowledge - may continue to lose money.

The Minister for Agriculture is to meet farmers! leaders to try to thresh out a scheme for helping this class of farmer. "

----0000000----

Good rains, associated with relatively mild weather, have been experienced in most of the main citrus producing areas in New South Wales during the past month.

Development of Navels has been generally satisfactory. Although crops in the main are only moderate the fruit is of good size and sugar content up to the requisite standard. Crops appear to be somewhat later than usual but some marketing is proceeding. Some fruit on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area has already been picked for export to New Zealand.

Mostly light to medium crops of Valencias are to be seen but, generally speaking, the fruit is sizing nicely now that rain has been experienced. Other citrus crops are chiefly medium to light.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Lighter yardings of Sheep and Lambs.

Supplies of sheep and lambs at Homebush during May showed a substantial decline, the pennings totalling 363,540 head or about 57,000 less than the April aggregate. The beneficial rains received in many districts have alleviated the generally unfavourable conditions prevailing. It would appear that graziers have by marketing fairly heavily over the past months reduced their flocks to safer numbers in relation to available winter pastures and lighter yardings may now be expected to continue.

Good quality mutton scarce.

Prime heavy wethers were in fairly short supply and operators handling this class of mutton often found it difficult to fulfil their requirements. Good light trade wethers were also fairly scarce. Plain aged wethers and ewes were numerous.

A feature on several sale days was the much improved showing of ewes, more particularly amongst the heavy weight class which tended to offset to a certain extent the shortage of heavy wethers.

Improved realisations.

During the first two weeks in May, good quality sheep were in strong request and a sharp rise in values occurred, the advance ranging from 2/- to 4/- per head. Prices eased by about 1/- to 2/- per head during the third week but in the closing stages rates for the most part did not vary appreciably. The market for medium to plain shoop also showed some improvement carly in May but subsequently values fell away considerably, largely owing to the substantial numbers of this class of sheep on offer. Representative sales of sheep throughout the period are given below and serve to illustrate the general prices trends:

First Week

11000	Trade	52 42	lb.	wethers ewes	(skin	7/6)	made	26/-	each	or it	41d	per	lb.
11	Trade	42	1b.	ewes	(11	4/6)	11	16/8	11	11 3	3 ad	11	17

Second Week

Good	Heavy	60	lb.	wethers	(skin	10/-)	made	28/6	each	or 33d	ner	Th.
	Trade	44	Tb.	TI .	(18	8/-1	17	23/6	11	11 113	111	11
н	Trade	44	lb.	ewes	1 11	9/61	11		11	" 4td " 3td	**	
11	Heavy			11	1 19	0/6	(9	21/7		ं ०इत	- 11	11
		00	100		1	9/6)	1 50	23/-		" 31d	11	17

/Third

Third Week

Good	Heavy	48	lb.	wethers ewes	(skin	8/-1	made	21/11	each	or 32d	per	lb.
11	Trade	40	lb.	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	("	1/-1		20/3	19	11 30	18	12
il.	Trade	40	· 1b.	ewes .	(Men	7/-)	100.10	19/10		-0(1-	8 ==	

Fourth Week

Good	Hoavy	48	1b.	wethers ewes	(skin	8/6)	mado	20/8	each	or	3d 31d	per	lb.
. 0	Trado	58	15.	ewes	(. 9	6/6)	. 11	15/11	La Para	11	3d	TILL!	

Increase in cost of mutton.

The average cost of mutton per 1b. was higher in May than during the previous month and reached a fairly high level, light wethers costing to 4d and light eves to 3d; heavy wethers made to 4d and eves 3d per 1b. Generally, prices for good light wether mutton ranged from 3d to 4d, and heavy was worth from 3d to 3dd per 1b., but a fair amount of heavy mutton cost 4d and 4d per 1b. Light trade eves were mestly worth from 2d to 3dd per 1b., although at times 3dd to 3dd per 1b. was paid for good quality. Heavy ewes were chiefly sold at prices ranging from 2dd to 3d per 1b. At times plain and inferior mutton reached low levels and over the period rates varied from 4dd to 2dd per 1b.

Amongst the best prices realised for wethers was 30/- per head for a draft of prime heavy crossbreds, while frequently prime heavy merines sold at from 20/- to 29/- each, according to weight and skin value. For the most part, however, good to prime wethers realised from 18/- to 26/- per head. Ewes on occasions made as much as 25/- per head for prime heavy descriptions, while quite a few pens were sold at prices ranging from 21/- to 23/- per head. Generally, however, operators secured good light to heavy trade ewes at prices ranging from 14/- to 20/- each. Medium trade sheep were worth from 9/- to 17/- each for wethers and ewes 6/- to 13/-, while plain and inferior descriptions sold at lower levels.

Modium quality lambs numerous.

Accregate pennings of lambs were smaller than in April, the actual yardings being 182,813 head. The quality of the offerings chiefly was only medium, while good numbers of plain descriptions were also included. Good to prime heavy lambs were by no means in heavy supply, nevertheless several outstanding drafts were available. Consignments of good light trade lambs and suckers were only mederate, and buyers operated freely when suitable lots were offering.

Generally stronger lamb market

Owing to the relatively small number of good to prine lambs yarded and the condistently strong demand, average /realisations

realisations were higher than during April. At opening sales rates advanced by 1/- per head and on the following sale day another improvement of up to 1/- per head was evident. In the following week, however, rates remained fairly steady. Later, as a result of smaller yardings, values further improved and continued strong until the end of the month. Values of medium to plain lambs displayed a good deal of irregularity and at closing auctions were about 1/- to 2/- per head lower than early in the month. Some sales recorded in May are shown hereunder:

First Week.

Good Trade 31 lb. lambs (skin 2/-) made 19/- each or 62d per lb.
" 29 lb.suckers(" 1/9) " 19/7 " " 72d " "
Heavy 42 lb. lambs (" 5/-) " 23/4 " " 52d " "

Second Week

Third Week

Good Trade 30 lb. lambs (skin 3/6) made 18/9 each or 6d per lb.

"Heavy 44 lb. " (" 5/6) " 23/10 " " 5d " "

Trade 30 lb.suckers(" 2/6) " 18/7 " " 6gd " "

Fourth Week

Good Trade 31 1b. suckers (skin 3/6) made 22/7 each or 63d per 1b. Heavy 40 1b. lambs (" 5/6) " 22/10 " " 51/4 " "

Improved realisations.

Considering the general quality of the pennings, which included a fairly large proportion of medium trade lambs, returns on the average were better than during April. On one occasion a draft of outstanding lambs realised the very satisfactory price of 30/- per head, while numerous sales were noticed where realisations ranged from 26/- to 28/-. By far the greater part of the good to prime lambs and suckers auctioned, however, were disposed of at from 20/- to 25/- per head, whilst medium trade descriptions realised 12/- to 19/-, according to weight and skin value. Plain and light store lambs sold at lower levels.

Some of the better grades of light lambs and suckers were worth 7th per 1b., as against 7d per 1b. in April, but mostly sold at between 6d and 7d per 1b. Heavy lamb was mostly purchased at from 5d to 6th per 1b. Medium trade lambs which were well supplied made from 5d to 5th, while plain sorts sold at lower levels. Having in mind the proponderance of medium to plain sheep and lambs yarded, prices realisations generally throughout May could be regarded as generally satisfactory.

Improved quality of cattle consignments.

Supplies of cattle at Homebush were well maintained the aggregate for the month being 16,373 head, including 2,564 auctioned in the Store section. On the whole, quality showed considerable improvement on the April yardings in which a large proportion of the stock was in poor condition. The pastoral outlook has improved considerably as excellent rains were received over a large section of the State, particularly in the Central and Southern portions. Conditions also were relatively mild. At the close of the month rain was still required in some districts, especially in the Northern half.

Increased supplies of bullocks,

Bullocks made an improved showing and although lightweights predominated medium weights were well represented. Quality generally ranged from good trade to prime. The market for bullocks was very steady throughout the period until the final sale day when values declined by from 10/- to 20/- per head. Until this occurred quotations for light bullocks had ranged to 47/- and 48/-per 100 lb. On one sale day only were heavy bullocks quoted and general rates on this occasion for good to prime grade were: Heavy, 42/- to 44/-; Medium 43/- to 46/-, Light 44/- to 47/- per 100 lb.

Good trade steers well supplied.

Steers were well supplied throughout the month and quality generally was fairly satisfactory. Generally, however, there was a shortage of prime light weights for which a keen enquiry was in evidence. The market showed some improvement on April levels, although prices fluctuated a little. Light weights were quoted to 52/- per 100 lb. at opening and firmed to 54/- only to decline again during the final week. A typical sale of prime stock was a line of Shorthorns which sold at £14.1.0 a head; the estimated weight was 540 lb. or 52/- per 100 lb.

Steady market for cows.

There was a fairly good supply of cows early in the period.

Later, however, the offerings were more variable and comprised chiefly light weights. Attractive lines were usually noticed in odd lots. In contrast to the previous month, values showed very little fluctuation, quotations for prime descriptions ranging from 40/- to 42/- per 100 lb. On a per 100 lb. basis, heavy cows were almost as dear as lighter sorts. Generally the prime beasts were obtainable chiefly amongst the heavier drafts.

Moderate consignments of good trade helfers.

Heifers were more plentiful than cows, good trade medium weights especially making a satisfactory showing. The supply of prime light weights, however, was limited. The market was dearest on the second

on other occasions, prime light weights rose in value to 54/- per 100 lb. On other occasions, prime light heifers ranged chiefly to 52/- per 100 lb., but 49/- was the highest in the final sale day. Changes in quotations were not caused wholly by general market fluctuations, variations in quality of the best grade offering from sale day to sale day sometimes being responsible.

Variable offerings of vealers.

Offerings of vealers were most variable, both as to number arriving and quality. On occasions when supplies were considerable, vealers of fair trade standard only greatly predominated and prime lines were relatively scarce. The stock generally also varied considerably in weight, the pennings comprising chiefly small descriptions on some occasions and medium to heavy weights on others. Prime lines were obtainable, for the most part, amongst the medium weights. Quality stock met a keen inquiry and the market was steady throughout practically the whole month at the best rates obtaining during the previous month. Values generally were higher than those of April. Quotations for good to prime vealers ranged chiefly from 55/- to 63/- per 100 lb., realising to 64/- on some sale days.

Cattle market mostly dearer.

Compared with the previous month, values of bullocks showed no material alteration, but those of other classes of cattle were higher. From the producers' viewpoint the position is very satisfactory as prices generally were much higher than those ruling during the corresponding period last year.

Small increase in pig yardings.

Numbers of pigs submitted by auction at Homebush showed a small increase, the yardings aggregating 8,571 head, including 4,865 received by rail. Sales by private treaty totalled 3,758 head.

Enhanced values of porkers.

Porkers were well supplied, although numbers arriving each sale day varied fairly considerably. All weights were represented, but medium weights predominated as usual. The proportion of store pigs submitted was larger and quality generally was not quite equal to that of the previous month. Although the supply of store pigs showed an increase it was insufficient to meet requirements and this class of pig changed hands at higher prices. Extremely high rates ruled for small, well bred stores. Demand for porkers generally weakened slightly on the opening sale day when light weights dressing 60 lb. were quoted to 49/6d and heavy (90 lb.) to 62/6d per head. Values, however, rose sharply on the following sale day and the enhanced rates were maintained during the remainder of the month. The prices for the lighter pigs were the highest paid for a considerable time. Quotations on the final sale day were 50 lb., to 48/6d; 60 lb., to 53/6d; 80 lb., to 60/6d; 90 lb., to 64/6d. per 1b. basis extra light pigs were quoted during the month to 1/ld. /Moderate

Baconers, for the most part, were in moderate supply and all weights were represented, although on one or two sale days heavy descriptions were fairly scarce. Good trade baconers predominated but many prime drafts were noticed especially those from country centres. Values were well maintained, the market throughout the month being fairly steady. Prices of good to prime pigs ranged generally from 64/6d to 110/6d per head, while on a per 1b. basis quotations were 7% d to 8% d for all weight grades. On the final sale day a small decline was evident equal to approximately % d per 1b. Many of the consignments to Homebush were sold privately prior to the usual sale day and paid for on the basis of the weight of the carcase at a fixed rate per 1b.

Backfatters well represented.

Backfatters were well represented, but they were chiefly of fair trade standard; good to prime sorts, nevertheless, made a satisfactory showing on more than one occasion. A noticeable percentage of the pennings was of heavy description and on one sale day a barrow pig was submitted which weighed 636 lb. dressed, the heaviest noticed at Homebush for many years; it brought £10 at auction and according to reports was found to be of excellent quality when killed. On the previous sale day a prime sow which weighed 525 lb. dressed was sold for £12, the highest price for many years. The market fluctuated a little, being dearest on the opening sale day and cheapest at closing. Values generally were very satisfactory and compared with those of the previous month showed no material alteration. Closing quotations for good to prime quality were: Lightweights (200/350 lb.) 5d to 52d; Heavy (350 lb. and up) 44d to 5d.

G.C. & J.W.

----0000000----

EXPORT OF HONEY TO UNITED KINGDOM.

The British Minister of Food has now made an Order (Vide letter of 31st March, 1942, from New South Wales Government Offices, London) replacing the Honey (Maximum Prices) Order, 1941. The new Order came into force on 29th March, 1942.

The provisions of the new order are substantially the same, but maximum prices are now prescribed for honey sold under a licence. Honey from Eire is placed in the same category as Home produced honey. The price of home produced extracted honey sold in 2-lb. containers is reduced from 1/3d to 1/6d; and from 2/- to 1/10d for heather honey.

The revised prices for imported extracted honey range from 9/3d to 10/7d in 2-1b containers and 15/6d to 17/10d per dozen in 1-1b. packs on first hand sale and wholesale, while retail prices are 1/02d to 1/1d in 2-1b and 1/9d to 1/10d in 1-1b, containers.

FRUIT AND VEGET BIE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Apples sell well.

Steady demand ruled for dessert apples, Jonathans continuing to be the most popular variety. Local packs were mainly from the Batlow district and values generally were well maintained. Tasmanian Jonathans were lightly stocked at tames, but consignments from that State ex rail from Victoria assisted in maintaining supplies. Towards the close of the month a fairly heavy shipment was received but a number of lines had reached an over-mature stage and had to be cleared at the best prices offering. Rates for the most part showed an easier trend. Local Delicious and Rome Beauty were only moderately supplied, selected sizes of the former sold to 20/- per bushel, while ruling prices of Rome Beauty were from 10/- to 13/-.

Tasmanian Cleopatra, Scarlet Fearmain and Geoveston Fanny were also available, Cleopatras meeting the bost inquiry.

In the culinary section, Granny Smiths from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area and Tasmanian French Crabs sold well. Some Granny Smiths from other centres in this State met a satisfactory request for dessert purposes.

lears in short supply - high rates rule.

Pears were very lightly supplied and at times prices reached high levels. Packham's Triumph, inter Cole, Beurre Bosc and Josephine were the principal varieties offered.

Supplies of Navels increase.

Consignments of Navel oranges from coastal districts showed a gradual increase, and values declined by about 4/- per bushel. Large sized fruit was plentiful, many packs of 56 being noticeable and demand for this class of oranges was very slow at times. Counts of 125 and higher, however, met a satisfactory request. Supplies from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area comprised mostly Thompsons, although Washingtons were included towards the end of the month. High prices were realised early in May for Navel oranges from the Gayndah district of usensland, special lines selking to 28/- per bushel.

Satisfactory inquiry for mandarins.

Imperial and Emperor mandarins from coastal groves sold steadily. A very good demand was experienced for the Glen Retreat variety from usensland and at times up to 30/- per bushel was paid; at clasin, however, ruling rates were lower at from 20/- to 24/-.

Values of lemons fluctuate.

The market for local lemons was firm early, but owing to limited inquiry, prices subsequently declined. Rates of queensland fruit

-790

also eased; prices ranged to 25/- per bushel during the first week of Mar, but it was difficult to obtain above 15/- prior to the close of the month.

Bananas scarce and dear.

Light consignments of bananas were general throughout the month and opening rates were at high levels. Owing to restricted demand, however, prices had to be lowered to stimulate sales, but, although the reduction in values was substantial, the returns obtained should be very satisfactory to growers.

Grape season practically over.

Cornichon and Ohanez grapes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area continued to arrive on the market but supplies were very light at the close of the month, and should soon cease. Prices generally were at higher levels than during the preceding month.

Light supplies of pineapples - higher prices paid.

There was a considerable decline in consignments of pineapples and in consequence prices were very firm. Choice packs sold to 20/- per case and special lines realised still higher rates.

Custard apples, papaws and avocados were on offer, the first-mentioned fruit selling at prices ranging to 12/- per half-case. Papaws eased in price, while avocados were slow of sale and some lines that had reached full maturity sold at as low as 3/- per half-case.

Beans real se satisfactory prices.

The mild conditions prevailing during the Autumn have enabled growers in reasonably close proximity of Sydney to harvest good quality beans much later than is usual and to obtain remunerative prices. Is might be expected, the quantities were not heavy, but with the addition of North Coast and queensland consignments the market was well supplied during the greater part of the month. Choice lines generally met good demand, but on some occasions medium to lower grade lots from the North Coast and queensland proved difficult to clear. Values at times reached fairly high levels, as much as 24/- per bushel being obtained.

Fairly heavy supplies of peas.

Consignments of peas for the most part were moderately heavy, although on some days stocks were very light and on these occasions prices rose to much higher levels. The bulk of supplies was from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area. These consignments reached the market late each morning and generally the prices realised were lower than those obtained for stocks sold earlier in the day. Demand, except when supplies were limited, was only fair, with medium to lower grade lines slow to clear at times. Nevertheless prices were maintained at levels which should give satisfactory

/returns....

returns to growers. Choice lots rarely fell below 10/- per bushel and as much as 20/- and, in a few instances more, was paid.

Stocks of tomatoes increase.

Very light supplies of tomatoes were forward early in the month, but following the lifting of the ban on the marketing of Murrumbidgee Irrigation area crops and an increase in the maximum rate from 10/- to 14/- per half-case, a marked increase in receivals was noticeable. Fairly large quantities of the San Marzania variety arrived from the Area. These sold well for a short period, but owing to the crops receiving heavy rain the quality deteriorated rapidly and many packs were difficult to sell even at rates well below the maximum. Consignments from queensland also increased, but demand, other than for a few choice lines, was only moderate.

Cauliflowers continue to sell well.

Fairly large quantities of cauliflowers were forward until mid-May and values were lower. The bulk of supplies was from inland growing areas, only small lots coming from Metropolitan gardens. Subsequently receivals, although improving from local sources, were lighter owing to the early crops cutting out in inland districts and prices rose sharply, up to 30/- per dozen being paid for selected heads.

Cabbages in request but market easier at closing.

Good inquiry ruled for cabbages and satisfactory prices were obtained for the first three weeks of the month. Supplies were heavier during the concluding week and rates showed a marked downward trend.

High prices paid for lettuce.

Keen demand for the light supplies of lettuce available resulted in prices rising to well above normal, as much as 20/- per case being paid at times. Towards the close of May, however, increased quantities came to hand, and as cooler conditions prevailed rejuest was limited and rates fell sharply.

R.H.

----0000000----

WILD CASTOR BEATS

A report appearing in the "Fruit World and Larket Grower" on 5th June, 1942, indicates that owing to difficulties associated with the procurement of the usual supplies of castor oil from overseas sources, considerable quantities of the beans of the wild castor plant are not required for oil extraction. A good clean dry sample of the castor seed is worth approximately 125 per ton. The castor plant is easily identified by its large fan or star shaped leaves, the plant is itself growing into a large bush or small tree.

AIEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SAIES.

Tasmanian and local potato consignments decrease considerably.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria Railway Goods yard during May showed a big decline and totalled only 597 bags of No. 1 Factors being received as compared with 4,738 bags during the previous month. From Victoria 696 bags of No. 1 Snowflakes were received. Demand for the Autumn crop Factor and Snowflake tubers was very keen and both cleared readily at the fixed rate of 217.5.0 per ton. In Sussex Street supplies from the North Coast increased to 2,453 bags of No. 1 Factors, only 100 bags being received last month. No difficulty was experienced in disposing of these at £17.5.0 per ton. Supplies of Tasmanian Brownell, Bismarck and other varieties showed a heavy decrease only 74,102 bags having been received as against 132,210 bags in April. A large proportion of No. 1 Brownell and Bismarcks was again taken over by the Federal Authorities which restricted the market for general trading purposes. For those available ready clearances were made at the fixed rate of 27 .5.0 per ton. A consignment of 672 bags of Tasmanian Chats sent from Sussex Street to Alexandria was offered at auction and realised £8.16.8 to £10.3.4. per ton.

Lighter supplies of Tasmanian root vegetables.

Tasmanian swedes were limited to 6,987 bags this month, compared with 9,424 bags in April. Prices varied considerably during the month, rates being much lower than last month for the bulk of the supplies. About 500 bags sold at \$15 early in the month. Subsequently the prices declined to £10 to £12 per ton, but during the last week 278 bags realised £15 per ton owing to short supplies. At Alexandria 342 bags of local Swedes were on offer from Kentucky and sold to £10 per ton. Later 121 bags of inferior quality were cleared for stock feed at £2 to £3 per ton. Carrots were also in lighter supply totalling 1,725 bags compared with 2,882 in the previous period. Prices opened at lower rates, 'viz £12 and gradually increased to £20 per ton. Supplies of parsnips were about three times as many as during last month and consisted of 762 bags. Bales opened at \$16 per ton and increased to £20 per ton.

Exceptionally light supplies of Victorian onions.

Supplies of Victorian Brown Table onions declined heavily totalling only 564 bags. Last month 13,779 bags were available. It is expected that supplies will continue to be very scarce. Sales were made early at 517 and with a keen inquiry prices increased to 518.5.0 per ton. Victorian Brown Pickling onions, totalling 518 bags, were consigned to private buyers and no prices were disclosed.

Heavy supplies of Pumpkins.

From Queensland 71 trucks of pumpkins were received at Alexandria, representing an increase of 20 trucks on the April receivals; from local centres, 11 trucks and 58 bags arrived. There

was little change in prices; opening sales were made at 115 and rates declined to 312 in the first half of the month then firmed to 215 per ton. Closing sales, however, were made at 311 to 312 per ton. A total of 466 bags from the North Coast arrived at Sussex Street. Prices varied considerably and early sales were made at 313, but later prices ranged from 310 to 312 per ton.

High prices for Oaten Chaff.

Oaten chaff consignments amounted to only 103 trucks, including 5 from Victoria as against 134 last month. Demand was exceptionally good and rices were high. Prime and choice lines sold early at from \$9.10.0 to 310 and gradually increased to the high rate for both prime and choice of £12 per ton. Two trucks of medium sold at auction realised \$10.16.8 and 10 trucks of damaged wet oaten sold from \$7 to £9 per ton.

Wheaten Chaff in demand at high rates.

Consignments of Theaten chaff totalled 30 trucks. Again demand was very good and prices increased to high levels during the month. Early sales were made at the following rates: - Medium 19.10.0, Prime 29.15.0, Choice 210.0.0, while the closing rate for prime and choice was 312. At auction one truck of medium quality sold at 210 and 2 trucks of damaged brought from \$10.6.8 to \$11.5.0 per ton.

High prices for Lucerno Chaff.

Tucerne chaff consignments totalled 512 trucks as compared with 48 in the previous period. There was a satisfactory demand and prices increased. A few choice lines sold from 313 to 214, Prime 311 to 312, Redium 310 to 310.8. At auction sales were made at the following prices:- Inferior 37.10.0 and Prime 311.11.8 per ton.

Lucerne Dust, Pods and Threshings.

Consignments of above totalled 8 trucks and 50 bags; the following prices were obtained: Lucerne dust \$7.10.0 to \$10; Lucerne Pods \$7.10.0 to \$3; Threshings \$8. sales at auction included 1 truck of threshings and pols which sold at \$9.5.8 and 1 truck of threshings at \$9.11.8 per ton.

Heavy consimments of Lucerne Hay.

From the laitland district considerably increased consignments of Lucerno Hay were received, amounting to 84 trucks as compared with 53 trucks on offer in April. Demand was fairly good. Quite a number of these consignments comprised very soft quality and prices covered a fairly wide range. Early in the month sales were made at 34.10.0 to £5 for soft green hay. During the latter half of the month prices ranged from £6 to £7.10.0. Two trucks of small baled hay sold at 38 to 59.15.0 per ton. Lucerne hay from other centres were 5 less than the previous month, totalling 55 trucks. Inquiry was again good and prices remained firm, viz., medium £8.5.0 to £10, Frime £10.5.0 to £11, Choice £12 to £13 per ton. In Sussex

Street 139 bales were received from Maitland; these were cleared according to quality, very soft green being sold as low as 23 to 24 per ton. early in the month. Later clearances were made at 24 to 26.5.0 per ton for soft green.

Only 4 trucks of Oaten Hay were received at Alexandria. One truck of a derrick pressed sold at £8 per ton. The balance was sold privately at undisclosed rates.

Oaten Straw in demand.

Consignments of oaten straw comprised 21 trucks and 1 truck of wheaten straw arrived from local centres. There were also 22 truck from Victoria making an aggregate of 44 trucks, being 3 more than in the last period. Demand was very good, sales being readily effected at the higher rate of 27.10.0 per ton. Two trucks of damaged straw were offered at auction and realised 24 to \$24.3.8 per ton.

Maize sells at advanced rates:

Receivals of yellow maize increased considerably and amounted to 4,145 bags as compared with only 2,312 bags in April. Buyers were very keen to obtain supplies; hence the high rates. From local centres 1,009 bags were received, while 544 bags arrived at Alexandria from Queensland and 2,592 bags from the North Coast were consigned to Sussex Street. Prices ranged from 3/3d to 6/6d per bushel. Included in the total was a very small percentage of white raize which was sold at the same rates.

Light supplies of wheat.

Only 14 trucks of wheat were forwarded to Alexandria, being 7 trucks less than the preceding month. These were all f.a.q. and sales were effected for use on poultry farms at the fixed rate of 3/8d per bushel. A small parcel of under quality was offered at auction and cleared at 5/1d per bushel.

Good demand for seed oats.

Very limited supplies of oats were on offer, consisting of 7 trucks from Victoria and 5 local. Two trucks of Victorian seed were in request at 3/3d per bushel. At auction, 2 trucks were offered and cleared at 3/2d and 3/3d per bushel. The remaining trucks were disposed of privately at undisclosed rates.

C.H.F.

----0000000----

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.V.) DURING MAY, 1942, AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31ST AUGUST, 1952.

· The following table 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 periods indicated: -

Commodity	March, 19	70 To	31st Augu From	st, 1939. To
Wheat - Home Consumption: Bulk - per bushel		(unchanged)	2/	
Flour - per ton (p	\$10.4.2. lus \$2.8.10	(unchanged) Od tax)	£6.1 (plus £6	2.5 .2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton Pollard - per ton		(unchanged)	24.5 £4.5	.0
Eggs (hen) per dozen	2/-	(unchanged)	. 1/	State of the
Butter- Choice - per cwt.	169/4	(unchanged)	161	/2
Cheese - Loaf per lb. Large " " Special Brands " "	1/0 ac 1/-	(unchanged)	Tan in i	1d Old /2d
Pigs (Abattoir Sales): Good to Prime, per head:	Pro New S			
Porkers - Extra light Light Medium Weight Heavy	30/6d 43/6d 43/6d 57/6d	48/6d 53/6d 60/6d 64/6d	31/3d 59/3d 43/6d 50/6d	40/6 d 44/6d 57/6d 54/6d
Baconers	64/3d	110/6a	60/3d-	75/6d
Backfatters £4	.15.0.	£ 0.0.13	4.5.0	S8.10.0.

NOTE: The pig sales nearest to 51st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

1945 of Complete to Baskage

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples Tropical Cases	Bananas Tropical Cases	Other Fruit Cases	Tomatoes half-bushel Cases	TOTALS Packages
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth.Aust. West Aust.	21,864	3,625 81 - -	16,163 17,953 187,099 3,420	11,712 22,904 1,213	53,364 40,943 188,312 3,420
TOTALS:	21,869	3,706	224,635	35,829	286,039

VEGETABLES.

STATE		Potatoes Bags	Onions Bags	Swedes Bags	Pumpk Bags	ins Tons	Cucs. & Chillies Cases	Other Vegs Bags T		TOTALS kges. T	ons	100
Queens Victor Tasmar Sth. A	ia ia ust.	462 62,129 163,991 1,314 91	222 28,292	16 13,360	21,496 218 144 51		166	11,916 14,120 4,715 3,116		34,065 114,775 182,210 4,703 91	10	
TOTAL	S	227,987	38,539	13,376	21,909	-	166	33,867	10	335,844	10	

-149-

