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NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE MARKETING BUREAU

DIVISION OF MARKETING

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



Vol. 8

No. 7

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.

JULY, 1942.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The British Minister for Food announced on 24th June, 1942, that on the following day large quantities of dried eggs would be on sale. These supplies, he stated, had arrived from the United States, Canada, Australia and the Argentine and he added that already the equivalent of 228,000,000 eggs had been distributed to retailers. Lord Woolton called this dried egg distribution the largest piece of food reorganisation that has been done during the war.

The Director-General of Man Power has stated that the pig industry has been declared a protected industry for purposes of Man Power Regulations. This protection applies to pig raising, transport, slaughtering and other processing industries; also to bacon factories.

The Commonwealth Prices Commissioner has fixed wholesale and retail meat prices in South Australia at the prices prevailing on 19th March, plus 1d a lb. In announcing this decision, the Prices Commissioner stated that owing to heavy demand coinciding with a seasonal shortage more acute than usual, stock prices had risen since 19th March and were now out of alignment with fixed wholesale and retail prices in the original order.

Wheat Conference held in Washington has resulted in approval by Governments of Argentine, Australia, Canada, United Kingdom and United States of a Memorandum of Agreement as a first step towards the conclusion as soon as circumstances permit of a comprehensive International Wheat Agreement involving 100,000,000 bushels. The Agreement contemplates establishment of a wheat pool for Inter-Governmental relief in war-stricken and other necessitous areas as soon as the International situation permits.

Provision has been made under National Security Regulations to limit the retail selling margins of apples and pears. Following are the maximum margins allowed on cost to retailer:-

Single cases - 2 Half-cases - 3 Less than half-case 5

25% 33-1/3% 50%

REARING AND MARKETING OF CALVES IN ME SOUTH TALES

Prior to 1932 information was collected as to the number of calves dropped in New South ales each year but such action was discontinued because unsatisfactory features rendered the return of doubtful value. However, data is collated showing the number of calves slaughtered for food and the number surviving at the end of each year. This information appears in the following schedule which indicates the trend over a number of years. Figures giving the total number of cattle in New South ales are also shown:

Year	Total Cattle	Calves Slaughtered	Calves Surviving
1921 1921-25(average) 1926-30 " 1931-35 " 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941	3,375,267 2,815,000 3,166,000 3,482,831 3,388,533 3,288,169 3,010,581 2,811,884 2,762,653	120,134 158,158 233,744 370,739 443,761 486,231,4 457,854 458,615 441,043 402,345	486,933 444,747 549,542 615,593 573,716 517,928 482,441 437,804 483,112 474,926

The above table indicates that during recent years the killing of calves has increased; between 1929-30 and 1935-36 slaughtering increased 172 per cent, and the number of calves at the end of the year by 25 per cent. The principal reason for this increase has been the provision of better slaughtering facilities, thus enabling dairy farmers to find a market for young calves. Until about 1930-31 approximately 90 per cent. of the bull calves and 70 per cent. of the heifer calves in the dairying districts were killed shortly after birth and not used for human consumption. Slaughterings reached their peak in 1937 and the falling-off in the number killed since has been due principally to adverse seasonal conditions. It will be noted that the total numbers of cattle in New South cales have also been declining during recent years.

Much diversity of opinion exists as to the exact classification of calves and in the trade they are termed variously as calves, vealers and yearlings. There appear no set rules governing weights and ages and undue reliance should not be placed on existing statistics, although they serve as a guide. The Government Statistician is obliged to accept statements regarding calf slaughterings for what they are worth; he is not aware of the size or age of the animals referred to. The Act governing

operations ...

operations at the Homebush Abattoirs makes provision for two classes of vealers, namely heavy and light (bobbies). Heavy vealers refer to animals dressing up to 250 lb. and not more than six months of age; light weights are animals not more than six months of age and dressing less than 150 lbs. Regulations also prescribe that a calf may not be sold weighing less than 50 lb. dressed and/or less than three weeks of age.

For purposes of prices collection in regard to stock sold on the hoof at Flemington the State Marketing Bureau regards as vealers animals dressing between 200 and 450 lb. and for the most part between six and fourteen months of age and which, up to time of consignment, have been running with their mothers. Animals under six months of age may not be sold at Flemington Saleyards and for all practical purposes the pennings of calves comprise beef breed stocks only. A small number of calves (dairy stock) is sold at the Homebush Abattoirs Saleyards but the great bulk of the Sydney supplies are consigned direct to the Abattoirs from country centres. (During 1940-41, 222,200 carcases of yeal were received from centres outside the County of Cumberland). According to figures released by the Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner. 62,654 calves were killed at the Homebush Abattoirs during 1941, of which 18,837 were heavy and 43,817 light. These figures would indicate that the bulk of slaughterings of calves comprises bobby calves of dairy breed. Although 250 lb. is the prescribed maximum weight for a vealer to be slaughtered in the calf house section of the Abattoirs it is understood that animals up to 275 or 300 lb. and even more on occasions are slaughtered there owing to the difficulty of accurately assessing weights. The 18,837 would therefore include both dairy and beef breed calves or voalers but would not include all the latter class slaughtered at Homebush as medium and heavy weight vealers are killed in the beef section (the charge is higher here).

As regards the proportion of the sexes, the great bulk of the bobby calves comprises the male animal but the percentages of steer and heifer vealers of beef breed sold at Flemington are fairly even. The price factor probably enters into marketing operations at this phase as both the male and female vealers command practically the same market value which, for this class of beef is usually comparatively high; for some time now it has been chiefly very high. A definite and legitimate market exists for vealers both of dairy and beef breed but there is no gain-saying that many of the small vealers of beef breed which are sold and killed would be better placed if they were held or disposed of as stores. Drought, of course, is probably the chief cause of their disposal in an uneconomic manner.

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MOPE AND BETTER HOLE PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

- Sir John Russell on After-the-Var Demands (From a Paper on "Post-War Agriculture in
Great Britain", read before the Royal
Society of Arts.)

It is not yet permissible to describe the wartime agriculture, but one can safely say that it has fully come up to expectations and is achieving more than in the last war. Although in many ways the conditions are more difficult, the fuller use of the scientific services has allowed of better achievement. In the last war the additional cereals were obtained at the expense of meat and milk, the production of which suffered considerably; in the present war the Minister has shown that the milk production for the three difficult months - September, October and November - was almost the same in 1941 as it had been in 1938, although there had been a falling-off in 1940. An important factor in this favourable situation is that, during wartime, agriculture becomes more systematised. Farmers know what they are expected to produce, what wages must be paid and what prices received; they can therefore work right up to the agreed price level.

What of the Future?

To achieve a prosperous agriculture we must begin by removing the difficulties of the past. These arose largely from uncertainty: farmers had to take the double risks of season and of market, and so were compelled to play for safety; this inevitably led to a low-level agriculture. Something of the systematic ordering of our agriculture which is proving useful in the war will need to be carried over into the times of peace. The war has given us many instances of the appalling cost of leaving things to chance, and we are now becoming accustomed to the idea of some sort of planning in our national life.

It is essential, first of all, to decide what our agriculture is expected to do. It cannot produce the whole of the food of the nation, but only a part, and we must decide what that part is to be. If the pre-war 40 per cent. is deemed the optimum balance between home production and the import trade, then we should aim at restoring our agriculture ver much on its pre-war lines. If, however, some other level of production is deemed proferable, we must know what it is. In order to focus the matter, I shall make two assumptions which, however, have no official basis:

(1) that we are to raise our agricultural output to a level sufficient to provide 50 per cent. of the value of the food consumed; /(2)....

(2) that the standard of nutrition of the whole nation is to be improved, which would require an increase in our pre-war supplies of milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables and other foods.

The change from 40 to 50 per cent. home production, therefore, means much more than a 25 per cent. increase in output.

Wheat is the most important item of our dietary, furnishing more calories and more protein than any other single foodstuff. We need not put our peace-time proportion at more than in 1939, i.e., about 25 per cent. of our total requirements.

Potato Position.

Potatoes come next in importance as suppliers of calories. The average annual consumption of 220 lb. per head supplies about half the calories given by wheat, but only about one-third the protein. Here we have always been, and must always be, self-sufficient. It is unlikely that our post-war consumption will be much above the pre-war figure, although this had somewhat risen since the 1920's, and if more new methods of serving potatoes should become popular there might be a further rise still. Our pre-war United Kingdom acreage of about 750,000 (475,000 being in England and Wales) has given us all we need, often, indeed, more, and no particular change seems indicated.

Milk, however, is an a different category. For a long period the consumption in liquid form remained steady at about 20 gall. per head, but just before the war it was rising, and this would no doubt have continued during the war had the increased supplies been available. After the war, however, we must prepare for a considerable increase in output. This will necessitate more dairy cattle, and also higher yields than the 560 gall. common now. Besides the improvement of the grassland it will also be necessary to cultivate more fodder crops. Mangolds and sugar-beet tops are likely to increase in importance, and kales and rape should increase in area, and would do still more, if some easily practicable way could be found for dealing with the flea beetles. One may expect also more lucerne. These fodder crops have the great advantage that they necessitate liberal manuring and good cultivation, and when, as often happens, they are mainly consumed on the land, they still further enhance the fertility of the soil.

Poultry will also need to be increased. In the past there has been a good deal of indirect and rather tragic subsidising; many people have worked hard in the town and saved a little money, then retired to run a poultry farm, where they have lost it. Poultry-farming properly done can be made to pay even in peacetime, but special care will be needed in reorganising the industry after the war. There is room for more poultry on farms, not the casual little flock one often sees but a full-scale unit that can /fully....

fully and profitably occupy one whole-time trained specialist. The "folding" of poultry over grassland is one of the best ways of improving it, and there is no better way of using the waste grain on the stubbles or getting rid of soll insects.

Fruit and Vegetables.

Fruit and vegetables have for some years been increasing in popularity among both consumers and producers. It seems safe to assume that they will continue to do so after the war. The possibilities of increased consumption are considerable. Before the war the Englishman's favourite fruits were oranges, bananas and apples; most of these had to come from overseas, excepting only some of the Autumn and Winter apples. Our beautiful berries were consumed in far less quantity, and plums were always liable to be unsaleable in a good season.

The expansion of fruit-growing necessitates the development of fruit-preserving and utilisation industries, for it is impossible to avoid periodical excessive production. Fruit preserving has the further advantage of being a village industry capable of employing village people, and while it cannot be carried on simply by means of gluts it offers contracts to growers and so widens their market. Along with an extension of fruit-growing should also go an extension of bee-keeping, for bees much improve pollination and yield of fruit.

Vegetable-growing has increased very considerably during the war, and it may be assumed that there has been a corresponding increase in consumption which will no doubt continue after the war. But it may be doubted whether the "Dig for Victory" activities will long survive the victory. It seems safer to assume that lawns and flower borders will be reinstated, and that tennis, golf and other games will take the place of digging. Market-gardeners will certainly be equal to the task of producing all the vegetables needed, and we shall certainly wish to resume our imports of high quality early produce.

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The Acting Official Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, advises that negotiations are proceeding between the Ministry of Food and the Commonwealth Government in London regarding the purchase of the war-time exportable surplus of Australian honey.

The Ministry is proposing to make purchases of this commodity on a similar price basis to that used by the British Government in effecting war time purchases of other Australian commodities, viz., f.o.b. Australian port. The Ministry is awaiting an estimate as to available supplies and when these particulars are received details regarding price determination and other incidental matters will be finally fixed.

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FRUIT PURCHASED BY NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS, 1941.

The following schedule shows the quantities and values of the different kinds of fruit bought by the New South Wales Railway Department during the year 1941:-

The state of the s	A SECTION OF SECTION O	
Item	Quantity	Value
	cases	Internation & market
Apples Apricots Bananas Cherries Grapes Grapefruit Lemons Mandarins Oranges, Valencias ", Navel Passion-fruit Peaches Pears Pineapples Plums	18,367 208 5,129 2,303 3,430 158 822 1,529 4,863 19,202 229 1,449 2,201 713 568	8,664 69 4,344 688 1,010 88 331 657 2,381 8,483 121 529 1,112 364 169
Nectarines Various	315 317	129 187
Cases Fruit	61,803	.29,326
Almonds and Raisins, large small Prune Sweets	4,913 4,690 500 15,847	88 41 550

The total quantity of fruit purchased by the Railway Department during 1941 represented an increase of 12,475 cases over the purchases of 1940. This, however, was offset to an extent by the falling-off in the purchases of almonds, raisins and prune sweets.

The value of all items of fruit bought by the Railway Department during 1941 was £30,005, compared with £26,405 in 1940.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

HIGHER SHEEP VALUES OWING TO SMALLER YARDINGS - NUMBERS INCREASE IN CATTLE SECTION - PIG MARKET FIRMER.

Smaller numbers of sheep marketed.

The number of sheep and lambs yarded again showed a further substantial decline, aggregate pennings for the period being 240,747 head. This represented a decline of 120,793 head compared with the previous month's supply. The general improvement in the pastoral position, heavy marketings earlier in the year, and the advent of shearing are all factors affecting the numbers of sheep and lambs available for sale.

Some improvement in quality,

Although plain and medium sheep comprised a fair proportion of the supplies, the percentage, despite the reduction in numbers auctioned, was not so high as in previous months. Many drafts of good heavy wethers and ewes were included, several exceptionally fine lots of 4 - 6 tooth sheep being offered. Prime light trade mutton was for the most part fairly scarce but medium to good sheep of from 36 lb. to 44 lb. dressed were fairly well supplied. The number of sheep penned was 142,001.

Sharp rise in values.

The reduced numbers of sheep together with an active demand resulted in a sharp rise in values on a number of occasions. Realisations for good quality sheep were the highest since the July and August auctions of 1938. Plain and medium sheep also were dearer.

The opening sales of the period were held up owing to industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs and only a relatively small number of sheep and lambs was penned; in consequence, bidding was spirited and rates for good wethers advanced about 1/- to 2/- per head. Values of all other sheep, however, did not vary appreciably. On the following sale day, wethers were again 1/- dearer while ewes showed an increase of 2/- to 3/- per head. Prices continued to advance on the following sale day, a further improvement of from 1/- to 2/- being evident in prices of both wethers and ewes. Heavier supplies coming forward during the third week resulted in prices falling away considerably, the decline ranging from 2/- to 5/- per head. In the following week, however, reduced numbers were yarded and the decline which was evident on the previous sale day was fully recovered at the Monday's auctions, while on Thursday the market again advanced, sheep for the most part being another 1/- to 2/- per head dearer. Closing auctions were marked by some irregularity but values were on a par with the best rates of the previous sale day.

/The

The following were some of the actual sales recorded:-

Pirst Week

Good	Trade	44	1b.	wethers ewes	(skin 6/	-)	made 2	4/1	each	or	45d	per	16.
il	· ii	40	lb.	ewes-	(" 6/(6.).	1 20	0/1	ď	16	4d.		14
17	Teavy	56	16.	11	(1 3/6	6)	1 2	4/-	13	11	3-d	.1	il

Second Week

					wethers	(ski	n 7/	(6)	made	25/	5	each	or	5d	per	lb.
1	11	Heavy	52	lo.	OWO C	1	10/	6)	0 18	23/	/11	0	17	4-d	.1	13
	Wil and	Trade	1755	The state of the	11 0 18 2	1	8/	(6)	The William	25/	1	2007	111	44d	n	11

Third Week

Fourth Week

Good	Trade	46	1b. wethers	(skin	8/-)	made	31/1	each	or	6d	per	lb.
il .	Heavy	50	1b. "	(411	7/6)	17	32/0	11	11	5d	. 11	- 33
11			1b. ewes	(11	7/-)	.13	27/5	34	13	5-1d	- 11	il
11	Heavy			(11	8/6)	. 11.	25/-	11	ii	3 d	11	11

Mutton at high levels.

The cost of mutton per pound was the highest for a number of years, light wethers reaching 6d per lb. as compared with 4gd in May. Ewes cost as much as 5gd per lb. for light sorts compared with 3gd per lb. during the previous month. Heavy wethers were worth up to 5gd and ewes 4gd per lb. Variations in the price of mutton during June were fairly wide, the cost per lb. of light wether mutton ranging from 4gd to 5gd per lb., with odd lots at 5gd to 6d. Heavy wethers were worth from 3gd to 5d per lb., with some making 5gd to 5gd. The cost of light ewe mutton ranged from 3gd to 5d and heavy from 3gd to 4gd per lb. Medium to plain mutton was secured at relatively lower levels.

Some very satisfactory prices were realised throughout June. On one occasion prime heavy, big-framed wethers carrying a particularly fine skin realised to 40/- per head, while prices ranging from 31/- to 37/- were frequently obtained. A good proportion of the sheep offering sold at prices ranging from 22/- to 30/-, according to weight and skin values.

Ewes made as much as 29/- per head, while other sales were effected at 24/- to 28/- per head. Mostly, however, rates varied from 14/- to 22/- with plain and inferior lines at lower levels.

Sharp decline in lamb numbers

The number of lambs offered was 100,746 compared with 182,813 head during May. Some improvement in the general quality was evident but medium trade lambs continued to be well in evidence. Some exceptionally nice drafts of heavy lambs were included in the pennings but the number of good light lambs, more particularly suckers, continued to be far short of buyers' needs.

Strong demand and prices improve.

The continued light yardings of lambs and suckers resulted in a sharp advance in prices for practically all grades. While prices attained very high levels, they did not quite reach the peak of those recorded during April, 1940. The market for lambs in common with that for sheep fluctuated somewhat and during the first half of the month rates advanced by from 2/- to 3/6 per head. In the third week, however, lambs mostly were 2/- per head cheaper following increased supplies. Lighter yardings towards the end of the month stimulated demand and rates again advanced, the improvement varying by from 3/- to 4/- per head. Closing sales of the period were at times easier but generally returns for lambs of quality did not vary appreciably.

Prices of some of the representative sales are given hereunder:-

First Week

Good Trade 31 lb. suckers (skin 2/6) made 23/4 each or 8d per lb. Heavy 44 lb. shorn lamb(" 2/6) " 26/4 " " 6d " ".

Second Week

Good Trade 32 lb. lamb (skin 4/6) made 24/6 each or 7gd per lb. Heavy 44 lb. " (" 6/6) " 30/5 " " 6gd " "

Third Week

Good Trade 38 15. lamb (skin 5/9) made 25/8 each or 62d per 1b.

Fourth Week

Good Trade 32 lb. lamb (skin 2/6) made 26/7 each or 9d per lb.

Heavy 40 lb. " (" 6/6) " 32/10 " " 8d " "

High prices paid.

A feature of the month's operations was the high prices paid for good to prime grades of lambs, some drafts making in the vicinity of 33/- per head, while many lines sold at from 28/- to 30/-. Generally rates for good lamb ranged from 22/- to 27/-, while medium to good trade lambs were disposed of at from 16/- to 21/- each according to quality.

Animals of like quality varied greatly in value on some sale days according to whether or not they were free to enter Victoria. Queensland cattle or those consigned from northern border towns are not permitted to enter the southern State.

Prime light steers scarce.

Steers were well supplied throughout the month but quality was variable although there was a satisfactory representation of good to prime medium weights. Prime light steers were somewhat scarce. At opening prime light steers were quoted to 51/per 100 lb. but values subsequently increased sharply and during the second week rates for good to prime steers ranged from 47/per 100 lb. Prices of prime lightweights then declined a little and remained steady until the close when a weaker tendency again became evident, 52/per 100 lb. being the highest quotation.

Poor showing of cows.

Cows made a somewhat poor showing during the period, being lightly supplied on most occasions. Quality generally was unsatisfactory, although on some sale days there was a fair representation of good trade lines with odd lots of prime. Light weights greatly predominated. Cows met an increasingly stronger demand as the month progressed and, whereas 42/- per 100 lb. was the highest quote at opening, both light and heavy grades ranged in value to 45/- by the final week. Even medium grade lines sold well. The market, however, displayed an easier tendency on the last sale day.

Good trade heifers well supplied.

Heifers made a better showing than cows and on several occasions many attractive lines were yarded, but for the most part good trade beasts were offering, while prime animals were available chiefly in odd lots. Prime light heifers were worth the equivalent of 50/- per 100 lb. at opening but values steadily increased and for the greater part of the month good to prime quality was quoted at 45/- to 54/- per 100 lb., prime light heifers being equal in value to prime steers. Highest rates at close showed some recession but this was due to the absence of prime light weights.

Prime vealers in keen request.

Truckings of vealers were variable but this class of stock was mainly in moderate supply. Quality was unsatisfactory, ranging chiefly from fair to good trade; there was only a limited number of prime descriptions. All weight grades were submitted. Demand was exceptionally keen and during the middle of the month the market rose to an extremely high level, quotations reaching to 70/- per 100 lb. A prime draft from Dungog realised £10.7.0 per head, the estimated dressed weight being 290 lb., equivalent

/to

to 71/- per 100 lb.

At the commencement and close of the month quotations ranged from 55/- to 63/- per 100 lb. On some sale days operators were forced to offer high rates for stock which were only of good trade standard.

General.

Cattle values during June showed on the average a further upward trend, especially where bullocks were concerned. This position from the producer's viewpoint, is very satisfactory, especially in view of the increased numbers of cattle arriving. The attendance of buyers at the auction sales was unusually large indicating a shortage of cattle in country areas and other States. The changed pastoral outlook and the high market rates prevailing at present should be of considerable benefit to the grazing industry.

Supplies of pigs maintained.

A total of 10,650 pigs was submitted at the Homebush auction sales during June, 1942, including 6,020 head received by rail. There were five sale days during the period and average consignments each sale day approximated those of the previous month. Sales by private treaty aggregated 3,796 head.

Values of porkers at high levels.

Porkers were well represented, although numbers forward were a little smeller than usual. Quality was variable and, on the whole, not quite equal to that of May. Store pigs also were more in evidence at the close of the period. Medium to heavy porkers greatly predominated and prime lightweights were sometimes difficult to secure. The enhanced prices ruling for the greater part of May were more than maintained during June and rates generally reached exceedingly high levels. Quotations at opening were:— 50 lb. (dressed weight) porkers to 48/6; 60 lb. to 54/6; 80 lb. to 62/6; 90 lb. to 66/6 per head. The market subsequently fluctuated a little but on the third sale day 50 lb. perkers sold to 51/6; 60 lb. to 55/6; 80 lb. to 63/6 per head. Odd sales were effected at even higher prices. The market for heavy porkers was steady throughout the month.

Increased supplies of baconers.

Baconers made the best showing for some considerable time and all weights were well represented, although light baconers prodominated. Quality for the most part ranged from good trade to prime. The market for baconers was somewhat irregular, although average rates exceeded those of May and producers received better returns. On the opening sale day heavy baconers rose sharply in price to sell to 119/6 per head or 82d per 1b.

/Primo....

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Prime light baconers were worth the equivalent of 82d per lb. At the following sale rates for heavy weights declined a little but values of light baconers rose to 9d per lb. Next sale saw a small general decline in values but heavy sorts subsequently improved to sell to 120/6 per head, only to recede again at the close. At the final auctions prime heavy baconers were worth to 82d per lb. and other weights to 82d per lb.

Fair trade backfatters numerous.

Backfatters were in fairly heavy supply and many consignments of good trade to prime pigs were submitted. Generally, however, medium to fair trade descriptions formed the bulk of the supply and most of the offerings comprised lightweights. A firmer market prevailed and quotations for prime lightweights ranged to 64d per lb. for the greater part of the month. Best rates for heavy descriptions (dressing over 350 lb.) ranged from 54d to 6d per lb.

Higher values for pigs.

Prices of all classes of pigs were maintained at high levels during June, while returns from light porkers were the best in recent years. In practically all instances, values exceeded those of the previous month.

G.C. & J.W.

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MARKETING OF CARROTS AND ONIONS BY THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF FOOD.

The Acting Secretary, New South Wales Government Offices, London, reports that the Minister of Food has had under consideration arrangements for marketing next season's crop of carrots and onlons and has decided upon certain modifications of the existing schemes, designed, in the case of carrots, to give the Ministry a closer and more direct control over distribution.

The scheme of control for the marketing of next season's crop of carrots will be generally on the lines of the Potato Control Scheme which operated successfully from February, 1940. There will be fixed growers' prices and a guaranteed market for carrots of standard grade. The proposed prices and other conditions will be discussed with representatives of the growers and distributors at an early date.

Responsibility for controlling the marketing of main crop onions will also be assumed by the Ministry of Food. Maximum growers' prices will be prescribed, and the Ministry will, so far as practicable, arrange for the equitable distribution of the crop. In this case, also, the Government proposals will be the subject of an early discussion with the growers' representatives and with representatives of the trade interests concerned.

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SAIES IN SUSSEX STREET AND AT ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD.

Increased supplies of Tasmanian potatoes.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria during the month totalled only 220 bags of No. 1 Factors as against 597 bags in May. Receivals from Victoria aggregated 1,374 bags of No. 1 Victorian Snowflakes. Demand was very keen and sales were readily effected at prices ranging to £17.5.0 per ton.

Consignments to Sussex Street from the North Coast showed a considerable falling-off, only 415 bags being received compared with 2,456 bags in May, and these were disposed of readily at £17.5.0 per ton. Consignments of Tasmanian Brownell and other varieties totalled 86,811 bags. A fair percentage of these were taken over by the Federal authorities and supplies for general trading purposes were at times restricted.

Heavy supplies of other Tasmanian root vegetables.

Arrivals of Tasmanian swedes showed a considerable increase and amounted to 9,409 bags compared with 6,987 bags in May. In the first half of the month rates remained fairly firm at £12.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton, but with heavy stocks it was difficult to maintain prices, clearances being made at the lower rate of £8.0.0 per ton. At Alexandria, 801 bags of swedes from various local centres were available. Opening sales were at £12.0.0 per ton but, owing to the slow demand, prices declined to £6.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian carrots amounted to 4,414 bags. Prices continued firm at £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 early in the month, but, owing to the heavy supplies, agents were forced to reduce rates to £12.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian parsnips were also well supplied, stocks totalling 1,408 bags. During the first half of the month prices ranged from £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 but subsequently £18.0.0 per ton was asked.

Market practically bare of onlons.

Only 213 bags of Victorian Brown Pickling onions were received. These were consigned to private buyers and were disposed of at undisclosed rates. There were no other onions received.

Exceptionally heavy arrivals of pumpkins

Pumpkins received at Alexandria from Queensland amounted to 69 trucks, whilst one came to hand from Victoria. Consignments from local centres totalled 21 trucks and 148 bags. In the first half of the period prices were steady at £10.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton but, owing to increased stocks, prices were reduced to £10.0.0 for loose and £11.0.0 for bagged, whilst in the last week £7.0.0 to £8.0.0 per ton was quoted.

Increased supplies of oaten chaff - prices lower.

Consignments of oaten chaff amounted to 182 trucks, including 7 trucks from Victoria. Demand was satisfactory in the first half of the period at the following rates:- Medium £10.0.0, prime £11.5.0, choice £12.0.0. Later, owing to increased supplies, prices were reduced, medium selling at £8.0.0 to £9.0.0, prime at £10.0.0 and choice at £11.5.0 per ton.

Slightly increased supplies of wheaten chaff.

Consignments of wheaten chaff were slightly larger and totalled 36 trucks. Request generally was good, clearances being made as follow:- Medium £10.0.0, prime £11.0.0, choice £12.0.0. In the latter part of the month medium realised £9.0.0, prime £11.0.0 and choice £11.5.0. Sales were made at auction as follow: Medium £9.0.0 to £10.3.0, prime £11.0.0 to £11.1.3 per ton.

Heavy supplies of lucerne chaff - rates lower.

Lucerne chaff deliveries increased considerably and consisted of 82 trucks. Demand continued to be good for the first three weeks in June, but subsequently prices gradually declined. Closing prices were as follows:- Good sound £9.10.0 to £9.15.0, prime £11.10.0, choice £12.10.0. Prices obtained at auction were:- Good sound £10.0.0 to £10.10.0, prime £11.0.0 to £12.0.0, choice £12.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne threshings, pods and dust.

Arrivals of these commodities were light. Lucerne threshings and pods sold at £9.10.0 and lucerne dust realised £8.0.0 per ton.

Supplies of lucerne hay decrease slightly.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district totalled 74 trucks. Demand was good for dry quality but prices were lower. At opening, disposals were effected at £5.0.0 to £7.0.0 per ton, but closing rates were lower for very soft green at £4.0.0 to £4.10.0 and soft green £4.15.0 to £6.0.0 per ton. From other centres 57 trucks were on offer. Rates showed little change but late in the month the market was weaker except for choice lines. Early sales were as follow:- Good sound £10.0.0, prime £12.0.0, choice £13.0.0 per ton. Closing rates were:- Medium £8.0.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.0.0, choice £13.0.0. Two trucks of sound dry green hay realised £9.0.0 per ton at auction. Arrivals from Maitland in Sussex Street totalled 99 bales as compared with 189 bales during May. Early in the month clearances were effected at £5.10.0 to £6.15.0 but later very soft green lines realised £3.0.0 to £3.10.0 and soft green £4.0.0 to £4.10.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten hay - consignments increase.

Arrivals of oaten and wheaten hay increased. At auction 7 trucks of wheaten were offered and realised £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 pe ton. Private sales included 1 truck of Victorian oaten at £9.0.0 per ton.

Oaten and wheaten straw scarce higher rates rule.

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Supplies of oaten and wheaten straw consisted of 14 trucks. This total comprised 6 trucks of wheaten from South Australia and 1 from local centres. Oaten straw included 2 truck from Victoria and 5 from local centres. Demand for both oaten and wheaten was keen at £8.0.0 per ton, the bulk being secured by the Federal authorities.

Higher rates for maize, also increased supplies.

Arrivals of Yellow and White maize increased considerat and totalled 7,601 bags. There were 3,601 bags from the North Coayarded at Alexandria. A total of 268 bags was sold at auction, soft yellow realising 5/7 and 5/8 per bushel. The remaining 3,33 bags were disposed of privately at 6/4 and 6/6 per bushel. 134 bags of choice White milling maize sold at 6/6 per bushel. From lucensland a consignment of 2 trucks of prime dry small maize realised the high price of 6/8 per bushel. Arrivals at Sussex Street from the North Coast sold at 6/2 to 6/5 per bushel.

Arrivals of wheat increase. The state of the

Consignments of wheat at Alexandria totalled 21 trucks and 44 bags as compared with only 14 trucks in May. The bulk of these supplies was F.A. .. and sold for poultry feed at the fixed rate of 3/8 per bushel. At auction, 2 trucks of inferior sold at 3/3 and 3/5.

Heavier supplies of oats. and a mount at hollidos

Receivals of pats amounted to 21 trucks and 107 bags. Sales were effected at 3/5 to 3/6 per bushel.

At auction four trucks were offered at prices ranging from 3/- to 3/4gd per bushel. The balance was disposed of at undisclosed rates.

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CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY - SALES OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES -

Business in the fruit market generally was of a steady nature, although on occasions it was very quiet.

Apple supplies derived chiefly from Tasmania.

Tasmanian apples comprised the greater percentage of supplies. Local stocks, generally speaking, were light, particularly Granny Smiths, and higher prices were realised. At the completion of marketing of New South Wales Jonathans buyers turned their attention to Tasmanian supplies of this variety, but owing to the variable quality of many packs rates did not improve. Local Rome Beauty, Stayman's Winesap and Delicious sold at firm prices throughout the month. Tasmanian Cleopatras continued to sell well at up to 9/- per bushel, whilst Scarlet Pearmain and Geeveston Fanny also cleared steadily at rates ranging to 8/- per bushel.

which arrived met good inquiry. Occasional lots of this variety from Tasmania were also on offer but realisations were lower than for packs from this State and Western Australia.

Interstate pears more plentiful.

Only small lots of Packham's Triumph and Winter Coles from local areas were obtainable and fairly high values ruled.

Supplies of Victorian Packhams were more plentiful but sellers had to accept lower prices than those ruling for local fruit.

Many of the Winter Coles from Tasmania opened up in a very forward condition and had to be sold to the best advantage. Some Winter Nelis and Glou. Morceau were on offer prior to closing.

Interstate Josephines sold well early in the month at prices ranging to 17/- per bushel, but subsequent stocks were cheaper.

Oranges in moderate supply - realisations satisfactory.

Market values for Navel oranges were ruled largely by the quantities available. Early in the month stocks were light and prices of both coastal and Irrigation Area lots were very firm, up to 17/- per bushel being obtained. Supplies improved during the latter half of June and rates were much easier, although some fluctuations occurred.

Dull inquiry for lemons.

Consignments of lemons from coastal groves showed a marked increase. Owing to a limited demand, prices were lowered but this did not tend to improve sales and agents were carrying fairly heavy stocks at closing. Queensland growers continued to forward this fruit but much lower rates were realised.

Mandarins in request.

Satisfactory inquiry ruled for the light supplies of Emperor mandarins received from coastal groves and values advanced slightly. The Glen Retreat variety from Queensland also sold well at comparatively high levels. It was expected that this crop would soon finish and that Ellendales would follow.

Bananas sell at high rates.

Only light consignments of bananas were received throughout the month and prices reached the high levels of 28/- to 38/- per case with specially selected lines realising more.

Fineapples lightly stocked - Market firm.

The total quantity of pineapples received during June amounted to about 7,700 cases and prices were maintained at fairly high levels. At times up to 32/- per case was realised but the general rate for best packs was around 18/-. Demand was only moderate and stocks were not always cleared prior to the receipt of fresh supplies.

Strawberry season opens.

The season for Queensland strawberries commenced and very satisfactory prices were realised for both trays and packets, the former selling up to 12/- each and packets to 24/- per dozen. A few local perries were obtainable and included some choice samples which commanded up to 30/- per dozen punnets.

Request for passionfruit was somewhat slow at times but rates showed only slight alterations.

Compared with other seasons, supplies of custard apples were very light, with the result that the prices obtained were much above average.

All vegetables in request.

Trading at the Municipal Markets generally was brisk on Monday and Friday of each week. On other days the volume of business was much smaller owing to the reduced numbers of buyers in attendance, apparently as a result of transport restrictions.

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In the growers' section of the market the heaviest supplies were forward on the two days mentioned, a considerable falling-off occurring during the balance of the week.

Values compared with the same month last year were for the most part at higher levels, particularly for peas, beans and cauliflowers.

North Coast and Queensland beans heavily supplied at times.

Only relatively small quantities of beans from nearby centres were forward, the bulk of supplies being from the North Coast and Queensland which arrived at bi-weekly intervals. At times, consignments were heavy and owing to the prevalence of fungus diseases, disposals were difficult to effect; values dropped sharply and a considerable quantity became a total loss. Towards the close of the month, however, much improvement both as regards quality and freedom from disease was noticeable in consignments and with good inquiry ruling better prices were obtained, closing rates ranging up to 18/- per bushel.

Values for peas maintained.

The opening market for peas was very firm owing to the small quantity on offer and up to 24/- per bushel was obtained. During the balance of the month consignments varied, rising at times to over 1,000 bags and falling to under 400. Price levels were largely governed by the supplies available but they did not fall below 14/- per bushel for choice lines. Weather damaged lots were fairly plentiful at times and some were sold at low rates.

Queensland tomatoes were plentiful.

Fairly large consignments of San Marzana tomatoes were received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, but owing to the poor condition of many lines, prices well below the maximum of 14/- per helf-case had to be accepted to enable clearances to be effected. Prior to the end of the month supplies had practically ceased from this centre.

Supplies from Southern and Northern Queensland increased, rising from 8,000 half-cases during the first week of June to over 15,000 at the close of the month. Quality was variable and prices ranged from 8/- to 14/- per half-case, with some inferior lines lower.

Receivals from local sources, which were very light, included some small consignments of the new season's crop from the North Coast.

Consignments of cauliflowers decline sharply - Rates firmer.

Cauliflowers were moderately supplied during the greater part of June but just prior to closing the market was practically bare and prices rose sharply. Demand generally was satisfactory although the best inquiry ruled on Friday when rates were mostly at higher levels than during the rest of the week.

Cabbages become cheaper.

For the first half of June very satisfactory prices were obtained for cabbages, up to 16/- per dozen being obtained. Values were not maintained, however, as owing to the heavy supplies of beans demand slackened and sellers were forced to accept much lower prices in order to clear stocks.

Swedes plentiful, but carrots in light supply.

Swede turnips were heavily stocked at times and prices had to be reduced to much lower levels. Bulk carrots were in limited supply and rates showed an upward trend.

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R.M.

SAVING OF SHIPPING AND STORAGE SPACE BY DE-BONING AND TRIMMING OF EXPORT MEAT AND BY PROCESSING.

The Annual Report for 1941 of the New Zealand Marketing Department states that the restricted shipping programme for export meat from New Zealand during the 1940-41 season stimulated the development of every economy which would reduce the bulk of the meat to be shipped overseas. During the 1939-40 season a major step in this direction was the telescoping of all carcases of mutton and lamb, resulting in a saving of space equal to 25 per cent. over all. Early in 1940 a trial shipment of boned ox beef was made to the United Kingdom, and this proved so successful from the point of view of saving of shipping space and quality that instructions were later given that all ox beef and prime cow beef should be boned for shipment instead of being shipped in quarters. In addition, an order has been secured for regular monthly shipments of packaged ox beef. Further economies resulted from the following restrictive requirements in regard to shipment of mutton, lamb and pig-meat:-

- (a) Shipment of 5's and overs wether and ewe mutton to be limited to the 1938-39 proportion of total mutton export, and the boning of all ewes over 72 lb.:
- (b) Weight-range of lambs to be restricted to 23 lb. minimum and 56 lb. maximum:
- (c) All headless porkers to be shipped as sides and headless baconers as Wiltshiro sides.

In addition, experimental shipments of boned lamb, mutton and pork were made.

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VHOLESAIE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JUNE, 1942, AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

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	June, 1942	31st August, 1939
	From To	From To
Wheat - Home Consumption Bulk: per bushel	- $3/11\frac{1}{4}$ d (unchanged)	2/4d
Flour: per ton	£10.4.2 (unchanged) (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran : per ton Pollard: "	£6.0.0 (unchanged) £6.0.0	£4.5.0 £4.5.0
Eggs (hen): per dozen	1 2/- "	1/-
Butter (Choice): per cwt.	169/4 "	161/2
Cheese - Loaf per lb. Large " "	1/0 d " 1/- 1/3 d (unche	11d 10gd inged) 1/2
	June, 1942	29th August, 1939.
Pigs (Abattoir Sales) - Good to Prime: per head	From To	From To
Porkers - Extra light Light Medium weight Heavy	32/6 51/6 46/6 56/6 52/6 63/6 60/6 66/6	31/6 40/6 39/6 44/6 43/6 57/6 50/6 54/6
Baconers -	65/6 120/6	60/6 75/6
Backfatters -	£4.15.0 £10.6.0	£4.5.0 £8.10.0

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

FRUIT.

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	(ther Fruit cases	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS packages
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	14,858 - - - -	3,299 44 - -	15,112 82,117 172,102 6,633 38,717	15,844 2,913 54	49,113 85,074 172,156 6,633 38,717
TOTALS	14,858	3,343	314,681	18,811	351,693

VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes	Onions	Swedes	Pumpl	rins	Cucs. & Chillies	Veg	gs.	TOTAL Pkges.	
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	39,042 69,354 1,154	bags 23 14,601 - 601	bags 9 50 6,819	Bags 23,797 270 3	159출	254 8	5,339 15,082 2,909 18,433	- 9호	30,117 69,053 79,085 20,188	159 ³ / ₄ 9 ³ / ₂
TOTALS	110,245	15,225	6,878	24,070	1593	262	41,763	9분	198,443	1694

Also 13 tons Melons by rail from Queensland.

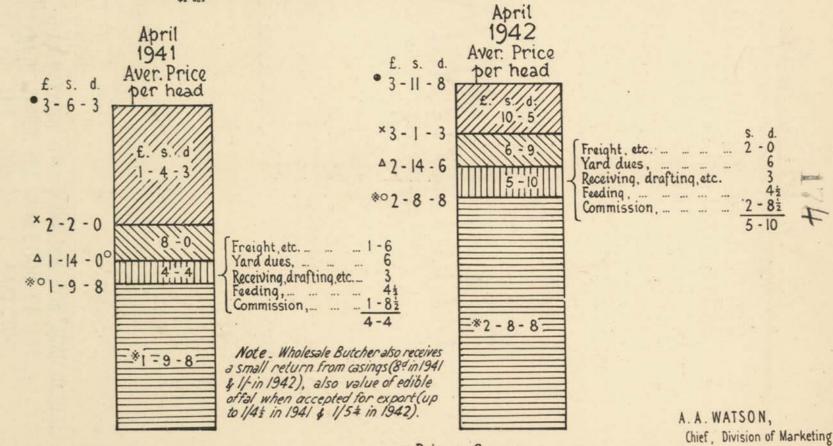
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STATE MARKETING BUREAU ~ DIVISION OF MARKETING~DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE~ NEW SOUTH WALES.

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PORK GOOD QUALITY PORKER SOLD AT HUMBBUSH AND DRESSING 70 LES

AVERAGE SPREAD OF PRICES BETWEEN THE RETURN TO THE PRODUCER AND THE PRICE PAID BY CONSUMER.



Compilation checked. G.C.

Graph checked. ... J. W.

Compiled. ____ J.W. ZZZZ Retail Butchers expenses & profits

Wholesale " Farmers marketing costs

Net realisation by Farmer

- · Price to Consumer
- × Cost to Retail Butcher
- A Cost to Wholesale Butcher
- · Net realisation by Farmer
- * Costs of production &c. must be deducted from this return.