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

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

MARCH, 1943.

Vol. 9 No. 7

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING,
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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 ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

MARCH, 1943.

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Australian Wheat Board has decided to make available wheat below F.A.Q. standard to poultry farmers at concession rates. This wheat is quite suitable for feeding poultry and will be supplied at 2d to 4d per bushel, according to quality, less than the price of F.A.Q. wheat to poultry farmers.

The Minister for Trade and Customs has declared all classes of meat to be commodities under the National Security (Prices) Regulations. Retail meat prices have been pegged at levels ruling in the various retail shops throughout Australia at close of business on Friday, 26th February, 1943.

The maximum retail price of peaches in Sydney and Melbourne was fixed on 4th March at 5½d per lb. The Prices Commissioner indicates that this action had been rendered necessary because of a shortage of peaches caused by the urgent demand for peaches for canning for the armed forces. It is understood that this is to be modified so as to apply to canning varieties only.

The Commonwealth Prices Commissioner has issued an Order fixing "ceiling" prices for all fresh fish sold in the Sydney Municipal Markets. The wholesale price of fish sold at points other than the Sydney Municipal Markets is the price at place of production (which has also been determined) plus the cost of transport to those points.

It has been announced that the pome fruit crop in Western Australia is expected to exceed 1,100,000 bushels. It is also reported that unusually large quantities are likely to be shipped to Eastern States.

OPERATIONS OF THE EGG MARKETING BOARD FOR THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the February issue of this publication, the Egg Board's history was briefly traversed and information of a general character was given, touching upon the Board's activities during the 1941-42 Pool Year. Further information with regard to the Board's trading and cognate matters taken from its Annual Report is set out in the following paragraphs:

Grading, Value and Sale of Stocks.

The total value of the eggs marketed through the Pool amounted to £2,282,880, while the value of eggs of all grades actually handled at the Board's floors was £1,592,533, giving an average price of 1/2.218 per dozen compared with £1,218,803 and 1/3.132 per dozen on the previous Pool.

It was contended that with the extension of operations of the Board into remote country districts a deterioration in the average quality of the eggs received would be noticeable. The extent of this variation has been much smaller than anticipated, and is set out in the schedule hereunder:-

Grade	1941-1942		1940-1941	
	Quantity (dozens)	%	Quantity (dozens)	%
Hen	21,604,897	80.37	15,507,100	80.23
Medium	2,318,779	8.63	1,909,163	9.88
Pullet	447,188	1.66	360,526	1.87
Small Pullet	50,356	.19	37,084	.19
Duck 1	93,236	.35	102,406	.53
Duck 2	47,133	.17	66,369	.34
Total - 1st Quality	24,561,589	91.37	17,982,648	93.04
Case	881,238	3.28	447,425	2.31
Cracks	1,180,531	4.39	745,399	3.86
Blood Spots	123,873	.46	87,603	.45
Total - 2nd Quality	2,185,642	8.13	1,280,427	6.62
Broken and bad	134,617	.50	67,431	.34
Total	26,881,848	100	19,330,506	100

/After ....

After eliminating the stocks carried forward from the previous Pool, the total stocks handled by the organisation were disposed of as follows:-

	1941-1942	1940-1941
Received from consignors	26,881,848	19,330,506
Returned for sale on a/c C'wealth Government	1,257,060	-
Total Intake	28,138,908	19,330,506
Disposals in shell, newlaid	12,915,440	9,303,097
Exported in shell to United Kingdom and sold to Commonwealth Government	10,720,560	7,907,310
Pulped	4,355,662	1,657,097
Chilled	137,940	455,280
Discrepancy	9,306	7,722
	28,138,908	19,330,506

The schedule below refers to stocks actually handled by the Board, but from the industry point of view the proportion of sales made in various forms can be determined by adding producer agents' sales. The following table shows the position:-

	1941-1942	1940-1941
Disposals in shell, newlaid	24,568,629	19,032,388
Disposals in shell, chilled	137,940	455,280
Disposals in pulp or powder	4,355,662	1,657,097
	29,062,231	21,144,765
Exported or sold for drying	10,720,560	7,907,310
Discrepancy	9,306	7,722
	39,792,097	29,059,797

Disposal of Surplus.

As previously explained, the usual export channels were not open for the disposal of our surplus after July, 1941, and prior to that date 10,036 cases were shipped. The cessation of overseas shipments then forced a diversion of the export surplus to the Commonwealth Government drying plants at Riverstone. This

/necessitated ..

necessitated a complete change in procedure which frequently resulted in the Board's finances becoming strained. The surplus existed from the beginning of June until February - a period of nine months.

The largest pack in the Board's history was submitted, the total reaching 357,352 cases, or 10,720,560 dozens.

The amount paid to producers for eggs in respect of the 1941-42 Pool year was 1/1.92 per dozen compared with 1/2.67 in the 1940-41 Pool year.

The actual reasons for the payment of a lower price to producers can be summarised as follows:-

(a) The delay in declaring a price for eggs accepted for drying which resulted in the Board's overdraft being increased to danger point;

(b) the imposition of part of the cost of cases and packing material which involved the Board in an unanticipated expenditure of £70,000 at a late stage in the season, thus reducing the nett return for surplus eggs.

With respect to the expenditure incurred by the Board on the cases required for packing the surplus, the Commonwealth Government eventually agreed to guarantee a special bank account to cover up to £70,000 in the purchase of these cases and packing material. This guarantee did not relieve the Board from its liability to meet this cost, the total amount having to be refunded by the Board over four years. The sum of £21,485 was paid during the Pool year, which included approximately £3,500, which was charged against the standard case system to cover the cost of diverting the special pack to local trade uses and absorbed in the standard case system - the balance of £18,000 being charged against the export venture. The preparation of the cases for surplus packing, special costs incurred in weighing, taring and scheduling the individual cases before and after packing, and the reconditioning of the cases and material upon return from Riverstone have not been charged to the export venture.

Cold Storage Trading.

In comparison with the cold storage ventures of previous Pools, that of the one under review was comparatively small. Surpluses up to the end of February were either sold for drying or retained for pulping or drying by the Board, with the result that March surpluses only were cold stored. The venture was under continuous review throughout January and February, but when receivals declined heavily and at an unprecedented rate it was impossible to continue storing, and those already in store were absorbed rapidly.

/The ....

The rapid decline in intake, following immediately by a heavy increase in sales, mainly the direct result of increased purchases by the Armed Forces, resulted in the withdrawal by the Board of 48,500 cases to meet local requirements which had previously been placed in various cold stores in Sydney and Newcastle on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. The proceeds of sales after deductions of all costs to the Board were paid to the Commonwealth Government. The Pool account reflects the 5 per cent. commission earned by the Board for this service.

Dehydrated Albumen.

The albumen venture which was commenced in 1940 continued to be operated during the Pool. Records disclose that a total of 89,715 lbs. (more than 40 tons) of liquid albumen were absorbed in the manufacture of 12,062 lbs. of dried albumen. Continuous research by the Floor Manager and the Board's chemist has resulted in an additional 6 per cent. of the dried product being produced from a given quantity of liquid albumen. The Board has a satisfactory commercial outlet for the disposal of the yolks.

Sales were steady throughout the year, particularly through Interstate agents, where an improving market is reported.

Frozen Whole Egg Trading (Egg Pulp).

Stocks pulped totalled 4,355,662 dozen, an increase of 2,698,565 dozen as compared with the previous year. The results of the previous year's pulping were shown in increased orders from local services, while some 420 tons were exported to the United Kingdom; at a later stage some 200 tons were exported to New Zealand. Raw material for dried egg powder and dried albumen was also part of the above total of 4,355,662 dozen. Some idea of the size and importance of this venture to the Board and the industry in New South Wales will be gained when it is realised that 15.17 per cent. of the Board's total intake went to the pulping room as against 8.57 per cent. in the previous Pool.

The total cost of the pulp manufactured (including the eggs used) was £227,716 and the realisations therefrom £198,409, resulting in an equalisation expenditure of £29,307 or 1.42d per lb.

Realisations were determined by the price fixed by the meeting of the Commonwealth Pulp Stabilisation Committee and also by the export of 940,800 lbs. (or 29.9 per cent. of pulp produced) to the United Kingdom at 1⅝d per lb. below local parity. A further offer of 250 tons to Great Britain was not taken up, but resulted in the firming of the market and assisted the Board to effect sales at better prices to New Zealand and Interstate buyers.

Pulp was mainly produced under the Lomax process and proved very satisfactory. Shortly after the extension of the

/Board's ...

Board's area of marketing control, unsatisfactory weather resulted in deterioration in the quality of country surpluses, and measures were introduced to counteract this by the establishing of pulping facilities at Grafton, Wagga and Young. The saving in egg quality was beneficial and the pulp met a ready demand throughout the State.

Additional work resulted from a fire at the Riverstone Meatworks, where some 150,000 dozen eggs, the property of the Commonwealth Government, were damaged and had to be pulped immediately. This was undertaken by the Board on the Commonwealth Government's behalf.

Arrangements have been successfully concluded for the installation of modern freezing methods at Sydney on the Board's behalf, and it is anticipated that similar arrangements will be made in Newcastle for the 1943-44 season. Further progress is reported in the extension of the pulping rooms in modern hygienic surroundings in Sydney and improvements at the Board's biggest country pulping depot - Young.

The Melbourne Venture.

The Board forwarded 5,960 cases of eggs to Melbourne, the majority being forwarded early in the Pool period, when markets were weakening. Further avenues of disposal were also available during winter months, but a firm local market made it impossible to use the southern market advantageously. The nett Sydney realisation of 1/1.95 on the Melbourne consignments covers realisations of both hen and medium grades. Although this price was considerably lower than local parity, the results were satisfactory when considered in conjunction with the fact that no local market existed at the time for the eggs consigned, and our nett returns were greater than export parity.

The New Zealand Venture.

The value of the New Zealand venture to the industry cannot be compared with the costs of £932.7.9 charged in these accounts. The contract provided first a market which absorbed over 400,000 lbs. of pulp at 2½d per lb. more than could have been obtained if shipped to Great Britain, which was the only alternative. The market was also used to dispose of 20 tons of dried egg powder before our local market programme was really moving.

Repeat business of considerable magnitude has already been written and fulfilled, and it would appear that within the bounds of actual surplus over local needs the New Zealand market can absorb considerable quantities of pulp and powder. In a year of extraordinary developments the establishment of contact and trade with New Zealand is probably one of the main achievements.

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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

SMALLER SUPPLIES OF CATTLE, SHEEP, LAMBS AND PIGS: GENERALLY STEADY DEMAND BUT VALUES FLUCTUATE.

Reduced cattle truckings.

Fairly heavy supplies of cattle were submitted at the commencement and close of the period but truckings during the intervening period showed a falling-off. On one sale day, due to an industrial dispute, supplies were abnormally low. As a result, the month's aggregate of 14,065 head was below the total for January. In the store section 1,425 were submitted.

Quality generally was most variable and while good trade to prime beasts made a good showing on some sale days the pennings frequently included a substantial proportion of lightweight cattle of medium to fair trade standard only. The month of February was mostly dry except in parts of the northern districts, including the far North Coast, and pastures continued to dry off rapidly.

Light supplies of bullocks.

The supply of bullocks was fairly light on the whole, although they were fairly plentiful on one or two sale days. For the most part consignments comprised light and medium weights of good trade to prime quality. Heavy bullocks were scarce. The market was somewhat irregular and average values were slightly below those of the previous month. Fluctuations, however, were not material. Quotations on the second last sale day, which was one of the best markets from the producers' viewpoint, were as follows:- Heavy 42/- to 45/-, medium weight 45/- to 48/-, light 46/- to 49/- per 100 lb.

Steady market for steers.

Steers were plentiful throughout the period with light and medium weights comprising the great bulk of the offerings. The breeding and quality of a substantial percentage, however, were unsatisfactory. Generally fair to good trade descriptions predominated with prime sorts fairly scarce. Values were fairly steady and, for the most part, ranged from 46/- to 53/- per 100 lb. A weaker market was in evidence at closing.

Fair trade cows predominate.

Moderate numbers of cows were forward throughout the period but, except on one sale day, medium to fair trade beasts greatly predominated. As a rule good trade to prime sorts were obtainable chiefly in odd lots. The market for cows showed a fair amount of fluctuation, being weakest at opening and closing when prime heavy sorts were quoted to 40/- and prime light to 42/-

/per ...

per 100 lb. At the dearest period quotations ranged to 44/- per 100 lb. but average rates were a little below those of January.

Firm market for heifers.

Heifers made a fair showing throughout the greater part of the period and, at the close, quality was very satisfactory, many prime medium weight drafts being noticed. A firm market ruled and rates showed no material fluctuation, quotations, for the most part, ranging from 45/- to 51/- per 100 lb. for good to prime quality.

Prime heavy vealers in evidence.

Pennings of vealers were moderate during the month and quality chiefly fair to good trade. Towards the close, however, the quality of the medium and heavy weights showed considerable improvement, many prime drafts coming to hand. A weaker market prevailed at opening with quotations ranging from 52/- to 59/- per 100 lb. Enquiry became stronger, however, prime descriptions selling steadily throughout the remainder of the period to 63/- per 100 lb.

Smaller numbers of sheep and lambs offered.

Compared with the previous month the number of sheep and lambs available was smaller, aggregate pennings being 328,463, representing a decline of approximately 8,000 head.

Quality only fair.

Fair to medium quality sheep, particularly ewes, continued in fairly heavy supply, the proportion of good to prime descriptions being by no means heavy. Some drafts of good to prime heavy wethers were included but light sheep, particularly good trade lines, were very often difficult to secure. A total of 174,378 wethers and ewes was auctioned.

Sheep market fluctuates.

The sheep market fluctuated considerably, although the rise and fall in values on any one sale day did not exceed 1/- per head on good quality sheep; however, in a number of instances the decline was more pronounced in respect of medium and plainer descriptions. Allowing for the variable state of the market closing quotations, particularly for wethers, were a little higher than those ruling early in the period. Some actual sales indicating price movements during the period are as follow:-

First Week

Good trade 42 lb. ewes (skin 3/6) made 13/11 each or 3d per lb.
" " 44 lb. wethers (skin 6/-) made 17/9 each or 3¼d per lb.

/Second...

Second Week

Good trade 45 lb. ewes (skin 4/6) made 15/8 each or 3d per lb.
" " 45 lb. wethers (skin 5/6) made 18/10 each or 3½d per lb.

Third Week

Good trade 44 lb. ewes (skin 4/6) made 16/6 each or 3¼d per lb.
" " 45 lb. wethers (skin 5/6) made 19/6 each or 3¾d per lb.

Fourth Week

Good trade 42 lb. wethers (skin 3/-) made 15/2 each or 3½d per lb.
" " 45 lb. ewes (" 2/6) " 13/10 " " 3d " "

Average cost of mutton virtually unchanged.

Although markets were variable and closing quotations were a little higher than those ruling early in the period, the average cost of wether mutton was basically unchanged, although ewe mutton generally was a little cheaper. Prime light wethers on one occasion made to 4d per lb. but this class mostly sold at from 2¾d to 3¾d per lb. Heavy wether mutton mostly cost 2½d to 3¼d with odd special lots to 3½d per lb.

Heavy ewes for the most part were worth 2¼d to 3d and light descriptions 2½d to 3¼d per lb.

Further decline in lamb numbers.

Supplies of lambs were again smaller, the total number available being 154,085 head, or about 9,000 less than the January total. Prime light lambs and suckers comprised a relatively small proportion of the yardings, although a moderate supply of good heavy sorts was included. Plain to medium quality lambs were numerous, while fair to good trade descriptions were also fairly well supplied.

Lambs generally sell well.

The strong request for good to prime lambs continued. Values at early sales did not show any appreciable change but subsequent sales were marked by an upward trend in prices which advanced by from 1/6 to 2/- per head, although at the close of the month lower rates ruled, good lambs being 1/- cheaper, with the decline on medium to plain descriptions even more pronounced.

Actual sales noted during the month are shown hereunder:-

First Week

Good trade 33 lb. suckers (skin 3/9) made 23/9 each or 7¼d per lb.
" heavy 38 lb. lambs (" 2/6) " 21/6 " " 6d " "

/Second....

Second Week

Good	light	33 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/3)	made	25/3	each	or	8d per lb.
"	heavy	40 lb.	lambs	(" 3/6)	"	24/8	"	"	6¼d " "

Third Week

Good	light	33 lb.	suckers	(skin 3/3)	made	25/4	each	or	8d per lb.
"	heavy	38 lb.	lambs	(" 5/-)	"	24/6	"	"	6d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade 35 lb. suckers (skin 1/-) made 21/10 each or 7d per lb.

Lamb prices unchanged.

The market for good to prime lambs and suckers was fairly well maintained, and up to 8d per lb. was obtained, equal to the best price paid in January. Generally, however, good to prime suckers were worth from 6½d to 7¾d per lb. Old lambs made from 5¼d to 6¼d per lb. for heavy grades and light were worth from 6d to 6¾d per lb. Hoggets also sold well at 4d to 5¼d per lb. but prices obtained were about ¼d per lb. below the previous month's average.

Lighter pig supplies.

The County of Cumberland is still under quarantine, due to the outbreak of swine fever, and this fact, coupled with industrial trouble at the Homebush Abattoirs, led to a further reduction in the number of pigs arriving for sale. The total submitted at auction during February, 1943, was 13,174 head, including the relatively large proportion of 2,216 received by rail. Pigs sold privately numbered 912 head.

Further setback to industry.

During the period the industry received still another setback. In December, swine fever broke out and during January prices fell considerably, despite light supplies, due to the poor demand by the consuming public. The market subsequently improved considerably but owing to industrial trouble operators had considerable difficulty in getting their stock slaughtered and values of porkers dropped again to relatively low levels. One sale was postponed until the following day and then competition was so poor that many lots were passed in.

Irregular market for porkers.

Consignments of porkers comprised chiefly medium weights of good trade to prime quality. Light porkers were relatively scarce. Small pigs were generally in very poor demand as store

/buyers...

buyers were unable to purchase owing to the restrictions placed on the movements of pigs within the quarantine area. The market improved steadily during the first half of the month and by the second sale values were at a fairly high level, light porkers dressing 60 lb. selling to 57/6 and heavy (90 lb.) to 77/6 per head. At the following sale values declined by from 10/- to 14/- per head while a further drop occurred in lightweights at the final auctions. Quotations on this occasion for prime pigs were:- 50 lb. to 38/6, 60 lb. to 46/6, 80 lb. to 60/6, 90 lb. to 65/6 per head.

Steady demand for baconers.

Pennings of baconers comprised all grades of weight, although light sorts predominated. Quality was variable and ranged from fair trade to prime. The inquiry for baconers during February was comparatively steady and the market was not greatly affected by the industrial trouble as some operators are in the position to undertake their own killing. Heavy baconers sold to £5.17.6 per head and extra heavy to £6.0.0. Values were at their peak on the final sale day when lightweights were quoted to 10d per lb. and heavy to 9d.

Light supply of backfatters.

Backfatters were in limited supply and the showing on one sale day was very poor. Medium grade lightweights comprised the bulk of the offerings, although quality was fairly good early in the period when several heavy descriptions were forward. Demand was steady and quotations, for the most part, fluctuated only because of variations in quality. On the final sale day the market firmed, lightweights selling to 7¼d per lb. and heavy to 6¾d per lb.

J.W. & G.C.

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FORECAST OF YIELDS OF MAIN CROP CITRUS FRUIT IN NEW SOUTH WALES - SEASON 1943.

The following forecast was issued by the State Marketing Bureau on 16th February, 1943:-

	Bushels	Bushels
Oranges:		
Navels	862,000	
Valencias	952,000	
Common and Other	185,000	
Sevilles	33,000	2,032,000
Mandarins	....	359,000
Lemons	....	168,000
Grapefruit	....	46,000
TOTAL:	....	2,605,000

----oooOooo----

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Reduced consignments of local potatoes - Tasmanian supplies heavy.

Supplies of local new Factors received at Alexandria Goods Yard were considerably lighter, 15,636 bags of fairly good quality being on offer. Demand was very keen but only portion of the supply was available for general trading purposes. During the period prices gradually increased, choice selling at from £9.0.0 to £15.0.0, F.A.Q. at £7.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton with seed quoted at £8.0.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Consignments of Victorian Carmans totalled 4,061 bags; quality was very satisfactory at prices ranging from £7.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. There were 992 bags received from South Australia and choice sold at £11.0.0 per ton. Heavy consignments of Tasmanian tubers were received in Sussex Street, stocks comprising 41,415 bags compared with 20,199 bags in January. Only portion of the supply, however, was made available for civilian needs. Prices ranged from £9.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbour comprised 359 bags of local Table potatoes and 164 bags of seed, whilst 150 bags arrived from Victoria. No prices were disclosed. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast by sea amounted to 246 bags, which were disposed of at £7.0.0 for F.A.Q. and £9.0.0 per ton for choice.

Practically no supplies of other root vegetables.

The only consignment of swedes during the month consisted of 120 bags of locally grown at Alexandria which were disposed of at £9.0.0 per ton and 109 bags of inferior from the North Coast which were hard to sell at £2.0.0 per ton.

Reduced consignments of pumpkins.

Arrivals of Queensland pumpkins were much smaller, only 14 trucks being available. There were 16 trucks and 40 bags received from local centres. Rates fluctuated considerably but at closing £6.10.0 per ton was quoted. Receivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast comprised 825 bags. Four trucks were sold at Darling Harbour. Buyers paid £12.0.0 per ton early in the period but subsequently values were lower at £7.0.0 per ton.

Moderate supplies of onions.

Arrivals of brown onions amounted to 4,078 bags which sold readily at £17.10.0 to £18.0.0 per ton with few sales at £16.0.0 to £17.0.0. Supplies of white onions totalled 987 bags which cleared at £18.0.0 per ton. Consignments from Victoria aggregated 441 bags of brown pickling which were disposed of at £13.0.0 to £14.5.0 per ton. A small consignment from South Australia consisted of about 380 bags of white; opening sales were

/effected....

effected at £21.0.0 per ton. From local centres 123 bags of brown brought £17.5.0 to £18.0.0, while 70 bags of white disposed of at auction realised £12.10.0 per ton and 86 bags of odourless £11.10.0 per ton. A consignment of 122 bags of white was offered at £6.6.8 per ton but was passed in. Consignments of brown onions at Darling Harbour amounted to 7 trucks. These were cleared at £17.0.0 to £18.0.0 per ton.

Smaller consignments of oaten chaff.

Arrivals of oaten chaff totalling 141 trucks were lighter. Rates were slightly higher as follows:- Medium £5.15.0 to £6.0.0, good sound £5.15.0 to £6.15.0, Prime £6.10.0 to £7.10.0 with special lots at £7.10.0 to £8.0.0 per ton. Nine trucks were offered at auction, prices ranging from £5.0.0 to £6.6.8 per ton.

Market for wheaten chaff unchanged.

Consignments totalled 31 trucks. Little alteration in rates was noticed, buyers paying from £6.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton, according to quality.

Lucerne chaff dearer.

Supplies of lucerne chaff amounted to 65 trucks. Demand was satisfactory and rates were firmer. Closing rates were:- Good sound £8.0.0 to £8.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £9.0.0, choice lots £8.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Hay supplies decline considerably.

Consignments from the Maitland district totalled 46 trucks. Rates were inclined to firm and during the period ranged as follows:- Inferior new soft green £2.10.0 to £3.10.0, new soft green £4.5.0 to £5.15.0, few dry at £6.0.0, also few special new soft green at £6.10.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Supplies from other centres were much smaller, comprising 69 trucks as against 111 trucks in January. The market showed little alteration and demand was good at the following prices:- Medium £5.0.0 to £5.5.0, good dry £5.10.0 to £6.0.0, good sound £6.0.0 to £8.10.0, prime £7.0.0 to £9.0.0 and few extra £10.0.0 to £10.10.0 per ton. Sales by auction included green grassy at £5.15.0, also 6 trucks derrick-pressed of good to prime quality at £5.1.8 to £6.0.0 and soft green at £3.15.0 per ton. Only 14 bales were received in Sussex Street by sea and these sold at £5.0.0 to £5.5.0 per ton.

Lucerne dust and lucerne poultry meal.

Very light supplies of lucerne dust brought £13.0.0 to £15.0.0 and lucerne poultry meal £16.0.0 per ton.

/Oaten ....

Oaten and rye hay.

Arrivals of oaten hay totalled 10 trucks and 1 truck of rye hay was also available. Choice rack oaten brought £10.0.0 per ton and good sound £6.0.0 per ton. No price was disclosed for the rye hay.

Fairly heavy arrivals of straw.

Consignments amounted to 52 trucks and 40 bales and consisted of 41 trucks of oaten, 8 of wheaten and 3 of millet straw. During the month good quality oaten realised £5.0.0 and prime £7.0.0 to £7.10.0, wheaten £4.10.0 to £6.0.0 and millet £6.0.0 to £6.5.0 per ton. At auction, 1 truck of stained oaten brought £4.10.0 per ton.

Small supplies of maize grain - High values rule.

Very light supplies of local yellow maize arrived at Alexandria, only 517 bags being received. Sales of yellow were effected at 6/9 to 7/- per bushel. At auction 127 bags of inferior sold at 5/9 per bushel. Consignments from Queensland also were restricted, only 690 bags coming to hand, as against 2,291 bags in January. Sales were recorded at 7/3 per bushel for yellow. At auction, 137 bags of weevily Red realised 4/6 per bushel. In Sussex Street, 131 bags arrived by sea from the North Coast and sold at 6/- per bushel.

Wheat in light supply.

Only 20 trucks were on offer during the period. There was no F.A.Q. offered for sale but inferior was disposed of at 3/6 and 3/7 per bushel. Ten trucks were offered by auction, damaged and inferior lines selling at 2/8 to 3/4 per bushel.

Supplies of oats decline.

Arrivals of oats totalled 34 trucks. The bulk was disposed of by agents privately at undisclosed rates. Five trucks offered at auction sold at 2/9 to 3/- per bushel.

C.H.F.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

More apples available.

Generally supplies of apples were very light until towards the close of the month when consignments of local packs and interstate fruit increased. The principal dessert varieties from local sources were McIntosh Red and Gravenstein, while Jonathans were coming forward more freely prior to the close of February. High rates were paid for all lines, but with heavier supplies coming forward, values were receding. Culinary lines of Granny Smith, Cleopatra and London Pippin met a keen inquiry and realisations were well above normal. At times there was a scarcity of these packs with the result that sellers had little difficulty in obtaining as much as 25/- per bushel for best lots.

Only a small consignment of Worcester Pearmain, Alfriston and Alexander varieties was received from Tasmania. All lines cleared quickly, Worcesters selling to 25/- per case.

Supplies from Queensland consisted of Jonathan, Delicious and Granny Smith. Both Jonathans and Granny Smiths sold well, but request for Delicious was somewhat restricted owing to the lack of colour in most lines. A number of varieties was received from South Australia, including Jonathans.

Choice pears in request.

The supply of pears mainly comprised Williams. Fairly heavy consignments were received from Victoria, while the quantities from orchards in this State increased considerably. Demand was good for choice, green packs and values generally were steady at up to 14/- per bushel. Ripe lots and low grade packs were slow to clear at times. A few small consignments of Howell and Packham Triumph pears were received, but marketing of these varieties is not expected to become general until the bulk of the Williams are cleared.

Oranges scarce.

There was a keen request for the small supplies of Valencia oranges coming on to the market from coastal and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area groves. The ceiling price was raised to 32/- per bushel and practically all standard packs of regular trade counts sold at this rate throughout the month. A few lines of very small fruit and plain grades were the exceptions. Occasional consignments of intermediate crop Navels came to hand and little difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals at up to 32/- per bushel.

/Variable ....

Variable demand for lemons.

The market for lemons was somewhat irregular. Inquiry at times was keen and prices reached high levels, while on other occasions request was dull and stocks accumulated. The keeping quality of a large proportion of supplies was poor, considerable breakdown occurring shortly after reaching the selling floors. Purchases of large quantities by factories materially improved the position at one stage, when a marked improvement in price levels followed.

Improved market for bananas at closing.

Considerable quantities of heat damaged bananas were held on floors during early February. This fruit had a depressing effect on values of trade lines and it was not until clearances were made that the market improved. Demand was brighter during the latter half of the month and satisfactory prices were realised.

Pineapple supplies increase - lower prices rule.

With only light supplies of pineapples on offer on the 1st February prices were very firm, choice packs selling to 28/- with occasional specials 30/- per case. A further rise in values was recorded following the receipt of a light consignment on Thursday, 4th February, when up to 35/- per case was obtained.

The market was not maintained, however, as the very large quantities which arrived in subsequent consignments brought about a sharp fall in values. The presence of water blister was responsible for low rates being accepted for many packs.

Peaches sell well.

Supplies of peaches were mainly from inland districts as the coastal crop finished early in the month. Some very attractive packs of the Hales variety were on offer and up to 18/- per half-case was realised. Consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were mainly canning varieties and prices generally were at lower levels than those ruling for other inland lots.

Quality nectarines in demand.

Many of the nectarines forward showed a considerable amount of breakdown and much loss resulted. Sound fruit sold well at satisfactory prices.

Grapes in request.

There was a good demand for local Muscatel grapes and although values receded slightly when supplies reached their peak the trend was upward subsequently. The bulk of inland grapes arrived from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and comprised both

/Muscatel ....

Muscatel and Waltham Cross and a few other varieties. Most lines sold steadily and rates showed fluctuations largely owing to the varying quality and condition of supplies.

Water melons clear satisfactorily.

The high temperatures ruling during the greater part of the month created a brisk inquiry for water melons and prices considerably above normal were obtained for choice medium to large sizes.

Heavy supplies of cantaloupes were received from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and as good demand ruled, very satisfactory clearances were effected.

Effects of weather on vegetable production.

Continued dry weather, together with high temperatures, caused a considerable decline in supplies of vegetables, noticeably from gardens within the County of Cumberland, and values of a number of lines showed an upward trend.

Quality was also affected. Relatively few choice beans were included in daily supplies and towards the close of February a falling-off in the condition of peas from western areas was apparent.

Supplies of locally grown beans decline - values advance.

The market for beans showed improvement so far as values were concerned. This could be accounted for mainly as a result of declining supplies. Fairly large quantities of medium to low grade lines were available early in the month but demand for these was restricted and the daily carry-over was heavy. In a number of instances the quality was so poor that no offers were forthcoming and the beans became a total loss. Later, however, daily consignments were very light and only relatively small quantities remained unsold after each day's trading. Choice descriptions were in request at all times and owing to the limited offerings prices rose to high levels, up to 25/- per bushel and at times more being paid for outstanding quality lines.

The first consignment of Victorian beans reached the market towards the close of February. Despite the lengthy period taken in transit most lots opened up in reasonably good condition and very satisfactory prices were obtained. Supplies that followed were of much inferior quality, many being badly affected by fungus diseases with the result that disposals were difficult to effect even at low prices.

/Rates....

Rates for peas improve.

The market for peas was weak early in February owing to the heavy supplies on offer and a somewhat restricted demand. Prices dropped to the lowest levels for some time. Many lines could not be sold to the retail trade and an opportunity was provided for canners to secure fairly large quantities at 4/- per bushel. Purchases were also made for Army requirements.

This position did not continue and values from mid-February generally were much better. Towards the close prices were firm at up to 16/- per bushel while higher rates were realised for occasional extra choice lots.

The bulk of consignments was showing the effects of the prolonged dry, hot spell and much "yellowing off" was noticeable late in the month. Heat in transit was another factor affecting quality, this being particularly noticeable in supplies from the New England.

Market for cabbages improves.

Demand for cabbages was somewhat quiet early in the month owing to the plentiful supplies of peas and beans and the relatively low prices ruling for these vegetables. With the decline in receivals of most green vegetables request improved and values showed an upward trend, advancing to 18/- per dozen for choice heads. The greater proportion of supplies was only of medium quality and some very poor quality lots were forward at times.

Marked variation in quality of tomatoes.

Locally grown tomatoes formed the greater percentage of offerings, consignments from southern Queensland being light, although increasing. The quality of local packs varied considerably and a wide range of prices ruled. Many lots matured rapidly and as there was little inquiry for ripe tomatoes, clearances had to be made to factories. Choice semi-coloured lines generally sold well and realised up to 16/- per half bushel, while as much as 20/- was paid for a few specials. Supplies from inland districts were more noticeable but few packs compared with the best from around the Metropolitan area.

Carrots more plentiful.

There was a change in the rates for carrots under Prices Control Regulations on 22nd February, when loose lots were advanced to 25/- per cwt. compared with the previous fixed price of 18/- per cwt. Prices of bunched lines, also, were raised from 5/6 to 8/- per dozen of 36 lb., including tops. Following the increase supplies were more plentiful, particularly bunched lots.

R.M.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING FEBRUARY, 1943, 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 period indicated:-

Commodity	February, 1943 From	February, 1943 To	31st August, 1939
Wheat: Home Consumption Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)	"	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - per ton	£6.0.0		£4.5.0
Pollard " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0
Eggs (Hen) - per dozen	2/-		1/-
Butter (Choice) - per cwt.	169/4d (unchanged)		161/2d
Cheese:			
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d		11d
Large " "	1/-		10½d
Special Brands - per lb.	1/1d	1/3½d	1/2d

	February, 1943 From	February, 1943 To	29th August, 1939 From	29th August, 1939 To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales) Good to Prime per head:				
Porkers:				
Extra light	21/6	51/6	31/6	40/6
Light	37/6	57/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	43/6	71/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	54/6	77/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.9.6	£5.17.6 (extra heavy to £6.0.0)	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£6.0.0	£12.18.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

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

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RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WALES
BY LAND AND SEA - JANUARY, 1943.

FRUIT

STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases	Other Fruit cases	Melons crates	Tomatoes half-bushel cases	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland	28,394	5,521	15,855	241	14,759	64,770
Victoria	2	46	63,160	-	1,524	64,732
Tasmania	-	-	503	-	-	503
Sth. Aust.	-	-	4,221	-	-	4,221
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	28,396	5,567	83,739	241	16,283	134,226

VEGETABLES

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes bags	Pumpkins bags	Pumpkins tons	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.	TOTALS tons
Queensland	197	1,605	-	26,601	19[x]	191	1,930	30,524	19
Victoria	9,890	10,035	136	-	-	-	261	20,322	-
Tasmania	42,928[ø]	-	573	-	-	-	1	43,502	-
Sth. Aust.	2,872	1,437	-	-	-	-	1,693	6,002	-
West Aust.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	55,887	13,077	709	26,601	19	191	3,885	100,350	19

Notes: x Also 12½ tons Melons and Pumpkins.
ø " 3 cases Potatoes for scientific purposes.

STATE MARKETING BUREAU – DIVISION OF MARKETING – DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – NEW SOUTH WALES

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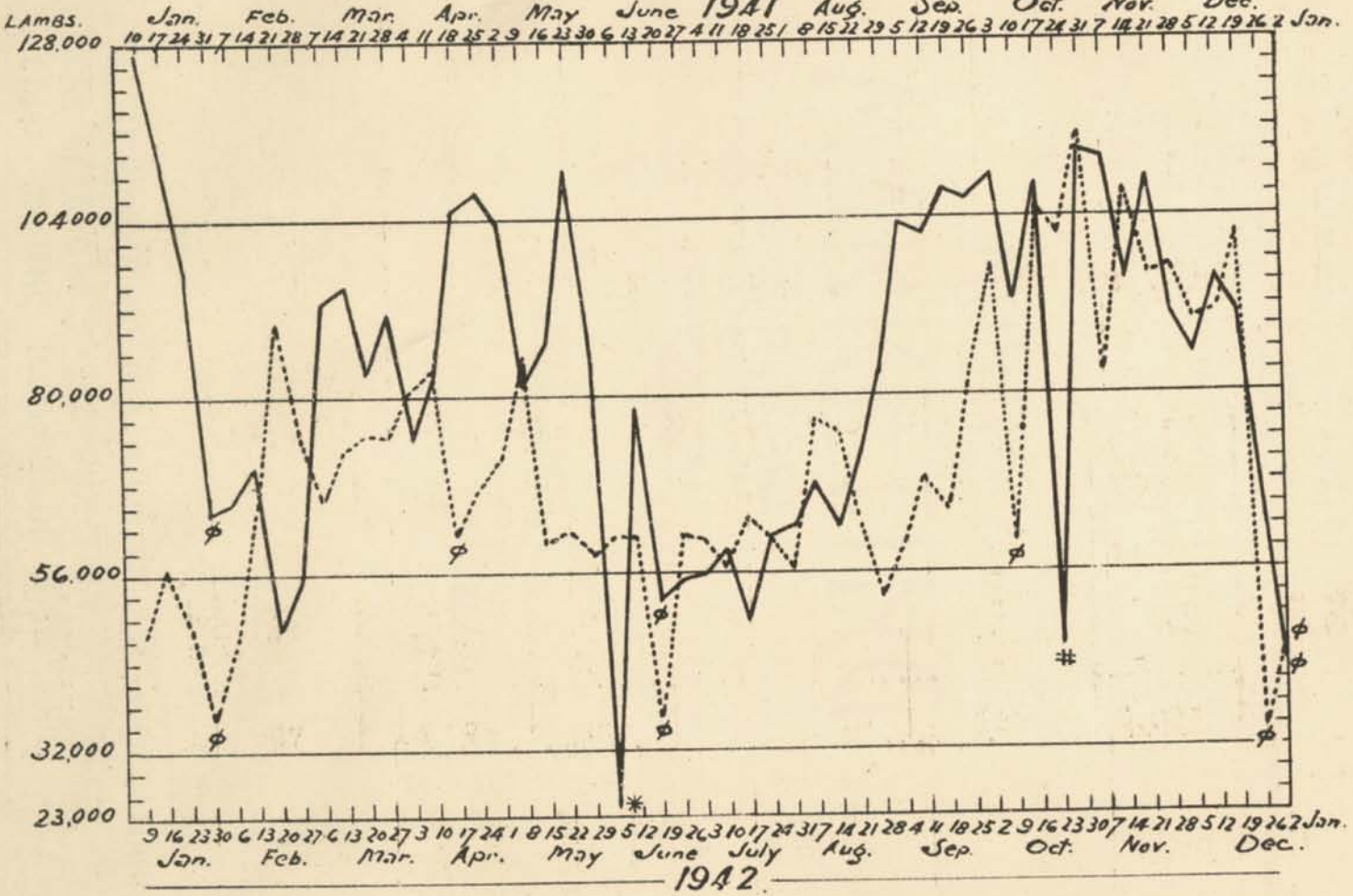
SHEEP AND LAMBS

COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOMEBUSH SALEYARDS FOR 1941 AND 1942



1941 shewn thus: ---------- 1942 shewn thus: ———

Compiled: G.C
Drawn: E.H.S. 2·3·43.
Checked: A.D. 3·3·43.

NOTES: ϕ : only one sale day held : public holiday.
✳ : Yardings affected by industrial dispute.
: One sheep sale cancelled.

E. F. WHITBREAD.
Acting Chief, Division of Marketing.
3·3·43

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