

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

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

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search
<a href="http://ageconsearch.umn.edu">http://ageconsearch.umn.edu</a>
<a href="mailto:aesearch@umn.edu">aesearch@umn.edu</a>

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

604

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE MARKETING BUREAU

DIVISION OF MARKETING

AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



FEBRUARY, 1944.

Vol. 11

No. 2.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SYDNEY

#### MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

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

### FEBRUARY, 1944.

Vol. 11	No. 2
Table of Contents	Page
Highlights	23
The World Wheat Situation	24
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush	32
Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street Sales	37
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Municipal Markets, Sydney	41
Commodity Prices in Sydney	7.0
Fruit and Vegetables - Imports into New South Wales	group T
Graph - Cattle: Comparison of Weekly Yardings 1942 and 1943	47

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

#### HIGHLIGHTS.

Production of main crop sitrus fruits is expected to total 2,575,000 loose bushels in New South Wales during the 194 eason. Heavy shedding of fruit has reduced prospective yields.

th countries.

iditogen ulas vani edi el q Adrio edi simile debilante.

It has been announced that to date over 2,160,000 bales of wool, valued at £40,354,574, have been appraised in Australia this season under the British purchase scheme.

According to a statement made by the Minister for War Organisation of Industry, the Commonwealth production goal for potatoes in the 1944-45 season has been fixed at 278,000 acres, compared with an estimated area of 190,000 acres planted in 1943-44.

The F.A.Q. wheat standard for New South Wales has been fixed at  $64\frac{1}{4}$  lb. a bushel - last season it was 63 lb.

At a recent conference, vegetable growers decided to request the Commonwealth Government to extend the contract system to cover 50% of national requirements of vegetables. It was stated that one quarter of the vegetables produced in New South Wales is already grown under contract.

COOKING TO BE BUILDING THE STREET

The output of dried-egg pewder for the 1943-44 season approximated 5 million 1b. (the equivalent of about 7½ million dozen fresh eggs) compared with an output of 2½ million 1b. in 1942-43.

An order issued by the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture restricts the sale of bran and pollard by making all sales subject to the consont of the permanent head of the Department of Agriculture in each State. For the present, the order Will be used only to restrict sales of a certain type which are interfering with the flow of mill offals through normal channels of distribution.

for the partieon

### THE WORLD WHEAT SITUATION.

(By W.H. Pawley, B.A., and P.C. Druce, B.Ec., Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, Sydney).

As it is still impossible to obtain reliable statistics of wheat production and stocks in U.S.S.R., China and countries under Axis domination, it seems preferable to confine this survey of the wheat situation to the four main wheat exporters, namely, Canada, United States, Argentina and Australia.

In these countries, the position has altered considerably in recent months. Due mainly to heavy increases in domestic consumption in the U.S., Argentina and Canada, stocks at the end of the 1942/43 crop year, although slightly higher than at the end of the previous year, were 450 million bushels below the estimate given in the last review of the World Wheat Situation issued by this Division in March, 1943.

The total carryover in the four main exporting countries at the end of each crop year since the outbreak of war is given below:-

M- September 7

Throughout this survey different crop years are taken for each country and are as under:-

U.S.A. - July/June
Canada - August/July
Australia - December/November Argentina - January/December .

Hence, the total for final stocks does not represent the position at any particular point of time, but does represent the true carryover.

With the end of the 1942/43 crop year, the continuous rise in stocks since the outbreak of war reached its peak, and if estimates of crops and utilisation for 1943/44 are correct, by the end of the 1943/44 crop year stocks will have fallen by well over 500 million bushels to about 960 million bushels. This figure is the lowest since 1939/40, but it is still very large and considerably above pre-war levels. This ...

\* \* GALL!

This heavy increase in stocks since the outbreak of we has not been due, in any large measure, to a falling-off in exports, as is commonly supposed, but rather to excellent war-tentrests in Canada and to a lesser extent in the United States. In Argentina and Australia, however, the rise in stocks, which small compared with the rise in the Northern Hemisphere countries was due mainly to loss of export markets. That this is true is shown quite plainly in Tables I and II which are appended heret

However, it should be pointed out that had a free work market existed, prices would have fallen, exports would have be increased to a considerable extent, and there would have been muse made of wheat for feed in the early war years. Thus, the was been a contributing factor to the rise in stocks.

Table III herein shows movements in the wheat situation of the four main exporters for the first war year, 1939/40, for 1941/42, 1942/43, and the expected movements in 1943/44.

The heavy increase in domestic utilisation in 1942/43 was due mainly to extensive feed and fuel programmes in the Unit States, Argentina and Canada. Domestic utilisation in 1943/44 is expected to show a further increase of over 170 million bushels, mainly in the United States.

It is estimated that total disappearance in 1943/44 will be over 2,050 million bushels, of which exports will constitute about 480 million bushels. At this stage it is difficult to estimate exports accurately, especially as the course the war takes may affect them considerably, and this figure should be regarded with caution. However, the estimate of about 1,600 million bushels for domestic consumption should be fairly near the mark provided Governments adhere to their announced programme in regard to the use of wheat for feed and industrial fuel.

This estimated consumption, taken in conjunction with crop estimated at about 1,500 million bushels, which is below the average war-time crop, would leave a carryover at the end of 1943/44 of about 960 million bushels. If consumption continues at this rate, it is likely that stocks will be exhausted in thes four countries in from two to three years' time, given average crops and provided transport can be found for Australian and Argentine wheat. In view of the heavy increase in consumption, efforts are being made to expand production in the United States and Argentina.

As the situation varies considerably in different countries, a brief review of the position in each of the four main exporting countries follows.

#### Canada.

The 1943 crop is officially estimated at 296 million bushels which is much below the average for the four war years and substantially below the thirty years! average of 341 million bushels.

Canada's carryover reached its peak at the end of the 1942/43 crop year when stocks amounted to 601 million bushels, almost six times the size of stocks at the end of July, 1939. This increase was due solely to the exceptionally good war-time harvests Canada has enjoyed.

Since the outbreak of war, Canadian exports of wheat have remained fairly steady, while domestic consumption has risen very considerably.

In 1943/44 it is expected that domestic consumption will be about 200 million bushels, or roughly twice as much as it was before the war.

Because of the extensive use of wheat for feed and industrial purposes in the United States, it is likely that the U.S. will import much more Canadian wheat in 1943/44 than previously, and Canadian exports are likely to reach 300 million bushels.

Thus, utilisation is likely to exceed the incoming crop by 200 million bushels. If this trend continues, Canada's stocks of wheat will be exhausted in two years' time. Up to the present, however, the Government has not taken any measures to increase production, and it is likely that from sixteen to seventeen million acres will be sown for harvesting in 1944. The is approximately the same acreage as in 1943.

### United States.

War-time harvests well above the average caused stocks of wheat in the U.S. to reach a peak of 632 million bushels at the end of the 1941/42 crop year.

Owing to a substantial increase in domestic utilisation, due mainly to increased use of wheat for feed and industrial alcohol, stocks have since declined and, if domestic consumption reaches a total of 1,105 million bushels in 1943/44 as is expected, stocks will be reduced to about 300 million bushels.

Utilisation in 1943/44 is expected to be as follows, figures in brackets being the corresponding figures for 1939/40:-

Food for Animal Other Export		consumption	535 ( 390 ( 180 35	486) 105) (76) (45)	
Shrasant .	Total	1:	1,140 (	712)	ng thodateon

/Included ....

Included in "Other" uses is 100 million bushels for alcohol production. However, it is hoped that it will be possite import larger quantities of molasses for this purpose, and if this is done the quantity of wheat required will be reduced.

Should consumption continue at the rate anticipated in 1943/44 without large imports of wheat from Canada, it is likely that U.S. stocks will be exhausted by the end of the 1944/45 croyear.

The Administration is asking for a substantial increas in acreage for the 1944 crop, the goal being 68,000,000 acres, representing an increase of 14,000,000 acres in excess of the area sown in 1943. Given an average yield, this acreage would produce only 850 million bushels. It seems likely, therefore, the feeding of wheat to livestock will have to be curtailed in the near future.

### Argentina.

The position in Argentina differs considerably from the in the Northern American countries. The substantial rise in stock during the war has been due, almost entirely, to the loss of expendates. Until recently, the heavy stocks of wheat were an embarrance assment to the Government but with the reservation on the 21st July, 1943, of 73 million bushels of old crop wheat for fuel and a further 18 million for animal feed, the position has altered considerably.

It is now estimated that 205 million bushels, more that twice the average utilisation in recent years, were consumed with Argentina in 1943, while exports may have reached 74 million bushels.

This extensive use of wheat for fuel is due mainly to exceptionally poor maize crop in 1943. Since the war, due to restricted imports of coal and oil, maize and, later, linseed have been used for industrial fuel, chiefly in power plants. Sale of linseed for burning as such have now been prohibited and stock of maize are almost exhausted.

It is expected that domestic utilisation in 1944 will be much the same as in 1943, while there may be some increase in exports. Taking into account the above-average crop of 291 millibushels which is estimated for 1944, stocks at the end of this ye should amount to 130 million bushels.

While this amount appears sufficient to meet all domest requirements and provide, in addition, for substantial exports to Europe, if required, the Argentine Government had, probably in viof the wheat position in North America, removed all restrictions on wheat growing, and is encouraging increased production.

THE WHITE OF STREET WAS

#### Australia.

In Australia, the average war-time crop is exactly equal to the average crop in the five years immediately preceding the war.

However, owing to greatly reduced exports, stocks have risen steadily since the outbreak of war, and at the end of the 1942/43 crop year (30th November, 1943) they reached the figure of 158 million bushels.

The Australian Wheat Board estimates that by the end of November, 1944, stocks will have fallen to 125 million bushels. This anticipated fall in stocks is attributed mainly to the fact that the 1943/44 crop is likely to be one of the smallest for many years. However, because of substantial orders for flour and wheat received recently from Britain, and the improved war position, exports are expected to be greater.

At 125 million bushels the carryover remains large, and the Government has not relaxed any of the restrictions on wheat growing, except in Queensland where increased reduction is being sought because of the shortage in that State.

However, a statement made early in January by the Chairman of the Wheat Board foreshadowed an important change in Government policy, and it now seems likely that greatly increased production will be sought. A more definite statement is expected early in February, but it may then be too late to have a very great effect on sewings for the 1944 harvest.

19th January, 1944.

v ol via more della della della vocazioni via

LOG PERSONAL ROLL SELECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

### THE WORLD WHEAT SITUATION.

# Four Main Wheat Exporting Countries. (Figures in millions of bushels).

TABLE I.

Crops and Utilisation.

Year	Crop	Domestic Utilis- ation.	Exports	Total Disappear- ance.
Average 5 pre-war years 1934/35-1938/39	1,363	970 ж	430 ⊭	1,400 m
Average 4 war years 1939/40-1942/43 1939/40 1940/41 1941/42 1942/43 6	1,731 1,613 1,734 1,649 1,928	1,081 974 967 980 1,404	400 465 408 378 348	1,481 1,439 1,375 1,358
1943/44 \$ maon of	1,525	1,575	479	1,752 2,054

# TABLE II. Crops.

Year	Canada	U.S.A.	Argent- ina.	Austra- lia	Total
Average 5 pre-war years 1934/35-1938/39	261	717	230	154	1,363
Average 4 war years 1939/40-1942/43 1939/40 1940/41 1941/42 1942/43 6 1943/44 6	483 521 540 315 556 296	372 751 812 943 981 836	222 131 299 224 235 291	154 210 83 167 156 102	1,731 1,613 1,734 1,649 1,928 1,525

Notes:

M Approximate.

p Estimates or partial estimates -See Table III.

TABLE III.

# Movements in the World Wheat Situation. (Figures in millions of bushels).

Year	Region	Initial Export- able Stocks	Crop	Domestic Disappear ance	(2 - 3) Current Export- able Surplus	Total	Exports	(5 - 6) Final Stocks
1939-40	Canada (a) U.S.A. (a) Argentina (b) Australia Total:	103 251 120 21(c)	521 741 131 210(d)	132 665 107 60(e)	389 76 24 150 639	492 327 144 171 1,134	192 47 133 93(f) 465	300 280 11 78 669
1941-42	Canada (a) U.S.A. (a) Argentina (h) Australia Total:	480 385 120 41(e)	315 943 224 167(d) 1,649	149 669 101 61(e) 980	166 274 123 106	646 659 243 147	222 27(g) 83 46(f) 378	424 632 160 101(e) 1,317
1942-43	Canada (a) U.S.A. (a) Argentina (k) Australia Total:	424 632 160 101	556(i) 981 235 156(d)	967 205	387 14 30 93 524	811 646 190 194	210(g)(j) 28(g) 74(1) 36	601 618 116 158(m)
1943-44	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	601 618 116 158	296(n) 836(q) 291(t) 102(v)	200(o) 1,105(r) 205(u)	<b>-269</b> 86	697 349 202 195 1,443	300(p) 35(s) 74(u) 70(f)	397 314 128 125(m) 964

30-

## Explanatory Notes to Table III.

(a) "Wheat Studies of the Food Research Institute", Stanford University, California - September, 1943. Appendix, Table IV. (Except where otherwise stated).

(b) Figures from previous issue of the "World Wheat Situation", March, 1943, source not available.

c) Commonwealth Statistician's figure.

(d) "Monthly Summary of the Wheat Situation in Australia", Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra, June, 1943.

(e) Estimate, based on figures released by the Australian Wheat

(f) Residual.

(g) Estimate, see "Wheat Studies", September, 1. 13.

(h) "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation" (Canada) February, 1943 the figure for exports is the official ligure of the National Statistical Office.

(i) Provisionally revised estimate - "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation", September, 1943.

(j) This estimate appears rather high. See "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation", September, 1945.

(k) Except where otherwise stated figures are from the "Monthly

Review of the Wheat Situation", September, 1943.

(1) Estimate, based on shipments of 40 million bushels to 31st August, 1943, together with 14 million bushels sold to Spain but not shipped. No details of this sale are available and the estimate may prove to be too high.

(m) Figure given by the Australian Wheat Board, "Land", 3rd

December, 1943.

(n) The first official estimate - "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation", September, 1943.

(o) Estimate: It is expected that domestic consumption will

continue to increase.

(p) Estimate: Owing to rapidly diminishing stocks of wheat in the U.S., it is likely that that country will draw heavily on Canadian stocks; Canadian exports in 1943/44 are therefore likely to show a large increase on 1942/43 figures.

(q) U.S. Department of Agriculture estimate, dated 19th December,

1943. "Sydney Morning Herald", 20th December, 1943.

(r) Estimate - See "Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation", October, 1943.

(s) Official estimate - See "Wheat Studies", September, 1943.

(t) Official estimate - dated 19th December, 1943. "Sydney Morning Herald", 20th December, 1943.

(u) Assuming consumption and export to be much the same as in 1943

(v) Australian Wheat Board estimate. "Land", 3rd December, 1943. (w) Estimate: Consumption in 1943/44 will probably be slightly higher than in recent years.

### SAIES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY, 1000

# Further falling-off in supplies of sheep and lambs.

te average cost of mexico was not outto an inch of the

Compared with the previous month the supply of sheep and lambs showed a further falling-off, the New Year holiday and, subsequently, Foundation Day affecting the yardings; only seven sales were held during January. Supplies for the eriod amounted to 322,911 head, including 158,361 wethers and ewes.

admit to symmetry without

### Quality sheep fairly scarce.

Only a relatively small proportion of the grown sheep on offer comprised good to prime descriptions, particularly light trade sorts, although on occasions prime heavy ewes made a satisfactory showing. Many consignments of plain and inferior sheep were included, while medium trade wethers and ewes also were well represented.

### Better class of sheep sell well.

A brisk inquiry prevailed throughout for good to prime sheep irrespective of weight. The me ket, excepting for an advance early in the month of 1/- per head and a further improvement of 1/- towards the end of the period was romarkably steady, ruling firm to very firm at most of the auctions.

The heavy supplies of plain to medium quality sheep had a somewhat depressing effect on values for that class of mutton and a dull tone generally prevailed - on many occasions plain and medium sheep proved difficult to sell. as anivolical ber

Representative sales indicating price movements are shown below:-设 于南宋的

### First Week

Good trade 46 lb. wethers (skin 3/6) made 17/11 each or 41/d per lb.

### Second Week

Good trade 44 lb. wethers (skin 1/6) \_\_de 18/= each or 42d per lb. " 44 lb. ewes ( " 3/6) " 17/5 " " 34d " "

### Third Week

Good heavy 52 lb. wethers (skin 9/6) made 27/8 each or  $4\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. trade 42 lb. ewes (" 8/-) " 21/3 " "  $3\frac{5}{4}$ d " "

#### Fourth Week

Good heavy 50 lb. wethers (skin 4/6) made 23/6 each or 42d per lb. trade 44 lb. ewes (" 3/-) " 16/11 " " 34d " " K. W. WENTY

/Average ...

### Average cost of mutton lower.

The average cost of mutton was not quite so high as in December, prime light wethers costing to 4½d per lb. and ewes 3½d. Heavy wethers made to 4½d per lb. and ewes to 3½d. Mostly, however good light wether mutton was worth from 4d to 4½d and heavy 3½d to 4½d per lb. In the case of ewes, the better class of light ewe mostly realised from 3d to 3½d per lb., while the heavy description generally made from 3d to 3½d. Medium to plain sheep were purchase at relatively lower levels.

### Smaller consignments of lambs.

Supplies of lambs were lighter, the pennings comprising 164,550 or about 32,000 less than the aggregate yardings for December. Quality for the most part was only fair, medium trade lambs and suckers being forward in fairly large numbers, while plain lambs were well in evidence. Prime heavy lambs continued to be scarce, but several attractive drafts were noticed. The percents of good to prime light lambs and suckers also was small, most of the light lambs offering being on the dry side.

### Steady inquiry for lambs.

Good to prime lambs and suckers sold exceptionally well. Some fluctuation occurred in realisations but this was largely attributable to the variation in quality. After making due allowant for the quality of the lambs offering, closing values were from 1/to 2/6 per head higher than those ruling at the opening auctions. Medium and plain lambs mostly were dull of sale and values generall irregular.

The following sales are shown as a guide to lamb prices throughout the month:-

### First Weck

Good trade 30 lb. suckers (skin 3/-) made 21/5 each or  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb. heavy 38 lb. lambs (" 5/6) " 26/9 " "  $6\frac{3}{4}$ d " "

### Second Week

Good trade 36 lb. lambs (skin 5/6) made 25/11 each or 63/4 per lb. " heavy 40 lb. " (" 6/-) " 26/4 " " 6d " "

### Third Week

Good trade 34 lb. suckers (stin 4/-) made 24/- each or 7d por lb. heavy 36 lb. lambs (" 6/-) " 25/11 " " 62d " "

#### Fourth Week

Good trade 31 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 23/1 each or  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. heavy 40 lb. lambs ( " 2/-) " 24/4 " "  $6\frac{3}{4}$ d " "

/Carcase ....

### Carcase costs decline.

After taking into consideration the general quality of the suckers and lambs available, the cost of the carcase was not so high as during the previous month. Prime light suckers reached 74d and heavy 7d per lb., while the average range of prices per pound was from 61d to 71d Good quality light lambs were disposed of it from 61d to 62d per lb., although at times 7d and 71d was paid. The heavy class of lamb mostly realised from 6d to 62d per lb., with occasional lots 62d.

### Fluctuating cattle supplies.

Numbers of cattle yarded during January, 1944, varied considerably, the pennings being very heavy early in the period and light during the second half of the month. On the average, consignments were slightly less than those of December, the aggregate for the seven sale days being 13,316 head, including 1,360 auctioned in the store section. The quality of the yardings was most variable. The quality of the supplies appeared to deteriorate and during the latter half of January a substantial proportion comprised fair trade stock only. The percentage of grown stock submitted also fluctuated but, for the most part, lightweight cattle greatly predominated. Passocal conditions are not so satisfactory as they were at the end of December and rain is urgently required in most inland areas, particularly in the more Western districts. January saw a return to normal weather conditions and hot drying winds adversely affected pastures. The position in the north-east sector of the State was an exception to the general rule, favourable weather having continued throughout the period.

### Meat rationing.

During the third week in January, the meat rationing scheme came into operation but it did not affect market values of stock as much as was anticipated. It definitely caused some degree of fluctuation and was, perhaps, responsible for the weaker tendency evident during the latter half of the period in respect of several classes of cattle, plainer descriptions in particular. There was also little doubt that the introduction of rationing was responsible for the variation in the numbers of stock arriving.

### Steady market for bullocks.

Consignments of bullocks ranged from light to moderate and generally comprised light and medium weights of good trade standard. Prime sorts made a satisfactory showing on occasions but heavy descriptions were available, chiefly in odd lots. A fairly steady market ruled and rates generally were about on a par with those ruling during the previous period. At closing, quotations for good to prime quality ranged as follows:-

Medium weight, 47/- to 51/-; light, 49/- to 52/- per 100 lb.

## Good trade steers well supplied.

Steers were fairly plentiful and, for the most part, there was a satisfactory percentage of good trade sorts. Prime lines, however, were scarce, while towards the close a noticeable proportion of the pennings was of a fair trade description only. A strong market ruled early when prime lightweights continued to sell to 57/- per 100 lb. By the middle of the period, however, values had receded by from 10/- to 15/- per head, quotations generally being 48/- to 53/- per 100 lb. Towards the close the market recovered somewhat, prime lightweights being quoted to 55/per 100 lb.

### Cows woll supplied.

Apart from the final week cows were fairly well supplied the pennings consisting chiefly of fair to good trade lines of medium weight. All grades of weight, however, were represented and prime sorts were noticed chiefly amongst the heavier sorts. A firm market ruled at opening, with quotations ranging to 47/- per 100 lb. Values weakened, however, and by the third week prices for good to prime ranged from 38/- to 44/- per 100 lb. At the subsequent sale rates advanced by from 10/- to 15/- per head but demand was again weaker at closing.

# Fair supplies of light heifers.

Good trade lightweights comprised the bulk of the heifer penned and prime beasts were obtainable chiefly in odd lots. Values were well maintained during the early part of the period where prime lightweights ranged to 55/- per 100 lb. but values were not sustained.

### Fluctuating market for vealers.

Truckings of vealers were relatively light early in the month but supplies improved later. Quality was variable and ranged ating. Most of the vealers forward were of a medium weight description. Values showed a fair degree of fluctuation and by the middle of the month rates for prime descriptions had receded from able improvement and closing quotations for good to prime quality ranged from 57/- to 68/- per 100 lb.

### Increased pig supplies.

Consignments of pigs during January, 1944, fluctuated considerably, nevertheless the monthly aggregate showed a marked increase. A total of 5,265 was submitted at auction, of which 3,430 arrived by rail. Private sales accounted for an additional 426.

/Improved...

### Improved quality of suburban pigs.

Baconers, as is now usual, comprised the great bulk of the yardings with all grades of weight well represented, although the percentage of extra heavy sorts was variable. Quality generally ranged from fair trade to prime with good trade descriptions predominating. As has been the case in recent months, a small proportion of the pigs was marketed in an over-fat condition. Under the prevailing abnormal circumstances, however, this can hardly be avoided and it is not reasonable to expect that all baconers produced shall be of first grade standard when the present marketing scheme has been in operation for only a relatively short period. It is worthy of note, however, that the general quality of baconers being produced in the Sydney Metropolitan Area has displayed considerable improvement lately. This is greatly to the advantage of the industry generally. First-class baconers will become increasingly in demand and the producers themselves cannot expect the present relatively high values for second-grade pigs to be maintained when and if production reaches a higher level, as is expected.

# Higher values rule for baconers.

Demand for baconers was very strong and, due partly, it is understood, to buyers for export commencing operations, values of all grades, except extra heavy descriptions, showed an advance. Quotations for all weights from 100 to 160 lb. ranged to 10d per lb., while this rate was exceeded in several instances. Values of extra heavy baconers ranged to £7.9.6 per head or 92d per 1b., but after demand for this class had weakened the best price obtainable for pigs in the 180/200 lb. range was the equivalent of 82d per 1b. The extra heavy baconer is not suitable for all operators and official guaranteed values fall sharply once the dressed weight exceeds 200 Tb.

# Stronger market for backfatters.

For the most part, backfatters were in relatively light supply. Quality, however, was fairly good and generally there was a satisfactory representation of prime heavy weights. This class of pig was in particularly keen request, and values increased progressively until the third wack of January when both light and heavy backfatters sold to 6gd per 1b. On a per head basis prices ranged to £13.1.0.

# Restricted demand for porkers.

Numbers of porkers fluctuated, while quality also showed a wide range. Demand for porkers is very restricted owing to limitations on slaughterings and values fluctuated considerably, even for prime grades. Generally quotations ranged from 71d to 91d per 1b. for good to prime quality, with heavy pigs usually the G.C. & J.W. doarest ----0000000----

# ALEXANDRIA RATIWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

# Increased supplies of potatoes from Interstate.

Arrivals of local potatoes at Alexandria showed a considerable falling-off, only 13,283 bags being received compare with a total of 70,218 bags in the previous month. The supplies were received principally from the Dorrigo, Grafton, Kempsey, Taree, Guyra, Tamworth, Wellington, Richmond and Windsor district Stocks mostly comprised Factors, although Katahdin, Manhattan and Satisfaction varieties were included. The bulk of supplies opened up in a fairly good condition and in only a few cases was regrading necessary. A fairly large percentage was taken over by the Federa Authorities, the balance being available for general trading purposes at the following rates: New Grade £6.17.6; No. 2, No. 3 and Chats £5.10.0 per ton.

About 9,435 bags, comprising Carmans, Gold Coin, Up-to-Date and Early Manistee, arrived at Alexandria from Victoria. It was necessary for portion to be regraded owing to wet rot. The but was released for general trading and realised £6.17.6 per ton for new grade.

Arrivals also included consignments from Tasmania amounting to 3,393 bags, which mainly comprised new season's Bismarcks with a few Brownells. These were also released for the trade and sold readily at £6.17.6 per ton. Consignments in Sussex Street from Tasmania showed a marked increase, supplies totalling 42,546 bags (chiefly New Bismarcks) as compared with new grade selling at £6.17.6 with No. 2 and Chats at £5.10.0 per ton.

Supplies also received in Sussex Street from Victoria were 15,504 bags of Carmans, Early Manistee and Snowflakes. Portic of the consignments opened up in a very unsatisfactory condition owing to grub infestation and wet rot and regrading was necessary. E6.17.6 for New Grade and £5.10.0 per ton for No. 2. There were 786 bags from the North Coast received in Sussex Street.

# Exceptionally light supplies of swedes.

Arrivals of swedes were again limited, only about 287 bags being received from local centres. Nevertheless, demand was fairly slow, clearances being effected at from £8.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania were also limited (337 bags) and the bulk cleared at £10.0.0 per ton.

### Carrots and parsnips exceptionally scarce.

No fresh consignments of carrots were available at Alexandria or in Sussex Street. Parsnips were also in light supply, only 50 bags being received at Alexandria from local centres; these brought £20.0.0 per ton. No consignments were received from Tasmania during the period.

### Pumpkins well supplied.

Arrivals at Alexandria from Queensland were again fairly heavy and comprised about 70 trucks and 129 bags. There was a good request and rates at opening ranged from £10.0.0 to £12.0.0 which subsequently firmed to £14.0.0, with few at £16.0.0 to £17.0.0 per ton. Arrivals from local centres consisted of 12 trucks which moved out at from £13.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton with few sales at £16.0.0. Consignments to Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 356 bags; these were disposed of at £14.0.0 to £15.0.0 per ton. Some sales at Darling Harbour were made at £10.0.0 to £11.0.0 per ton.

### Onions in very light supply - firm rates rule.

Consignments of onions to Alexandria were restricted to 3,371 bags from Victoria and 167 bags from Queensland. There was an exceptionally keen demand for the limited supplies available and rates continued firm, Victorian brown and white selling at £18.0.0 to £18.10.0 per ton. A portion of the 167 bags from Queensland brought the higher rate of £20.10.0 per ton. Also received at Alexandria from local centres were 1,746 bags of brown and white. No difficulty was experienced in clearing these stocks at higher rates, about 28 bags clearing at £14.0.0 with the balance at £18.0.0 to £21.0.0 per ton. Arrivals at Darling Harbour comprised 5 trucks of Victorian brown and white, 4 trucks from Queensland and 4 trucks from local centres. Victorian and Queensland were available at £18.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton, with portion of the local brown selling to £21.0.0 per ton.

### Oaten chaff sells at higher rates.

Arrivals of oaten chaff amounted to 105 trucks. A good demand prevailed but rates were unchanged during the first half of the month. Subsequently the market hardened by from five shillings to ten shillings per ton, sales being recorded as follows: Medium and good sound £6.0.0 to £7.10.0, prime £7.10.0 to £8.5.0, choice £7.15.0 to £8.10.0 per ton. Three trucks of damaged lots realised from £5.6.8 to £5.11.8 per ton at auction.

### Wheaten chaff very scarce.

Supplies of wheaten chaff were again exceptionally light, only 12 trucks coming to hand. Choice lots were in request. Clearances were effected, good sound realising £6.5.0 to £7.0.0. /Choice...

Choice lines mostly brought £9.0.0 per ton.

# Heavy arrivals of lucerne chaff - rates decline.

Consignments of lucerne chaff showed a marked increas 78 trucks being on offer. During the first week of January the following prices ruled: Good sound £8.10.0 to £10.5.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.10.0, choice £12.0.0 to £12.5.0 per ton. For the greater part of the month, however, stocks were available as £8.0.0, damaged £8.0.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £9.10.0, prime £9.10.0 to £10.15.0, choice £10.10.0 to £11.10.0. At auction, or truck of heated realised £8.0.0 per ton.

# Exceptionally heavy supplies of lucerne hay.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district amounted to 41½ trucks. Little alteration was noticed in rates. With the exception of a few very soft new green lines which sold at £2.10.0, the bulk of new soft green lots realised £3.10.0 to £5.0.0 with an odd line early at £5.5.0 per ton. Consignments from other centres were exceptionally heavy and comprised 106 demand despite heavy supplies but rates were reduced and were as £7.0.0 to £9.0.0, prime £8.10.0 to £10.0.0, choice £10.0.0 to £10.10.0 with a few choice at £11.0.0 to £11.10.0 per ton. Sales ton. Sales of derrick-pressed were effected as follows:- Good codd choice at £8.10.0 per ton.

# Reduced supplies of oaten hay.

Arrivals of oaten hay comprised 31 trucks of rack and 9 trucks of derrick-pressed. Demand was fairly slow for other that at £5.0.0 to £6.10.0, prime at £8.0.0 to £6.0.0, good sound £9.10.0 to £10.0.0 per ton. Derrick pressed lots were disposed of Three trucks submitted at auction sold at £5.0.0 per ton. Wheaten and prime £6.0.0 per ton.

# Heavier arrivals of straw - merket weaker.

Consignments of oaten straw increased by 16 trucks, 34 trucks coming to hand. Owing to increased supplies, prices were reduced and clearances of stained lines were effected at £5.0.0 with prime at £6.15.0 to £7.0.0 and choice at £7.10.0 per ton. %5.0.0 and choice £6.15.0 per ton.

/Consignments ...

### Consignments of wheat again increase.

Arrivals of wheat at Alexandria totalled 50 trucks. F.A.Q. lots were available at 3/8, with a few lines of hard wheat varieties at 3/10 per bushel. Included in the drrivals was a fair percentage of under quality wheat; 21 trucks were submitted at auction and realised the following prices: Damaged pick-ups 1/1, other pick-ups 2/- to 3/5, with Silo screenings 2/32d and stack sweepings 3/1 per bushel.

# Maize exceptionally scarce.

Supplies of maize were the lightest for an extended period. Only 381 bags of yellow and 507 bags of white arrived at Alexandria from local centres, while 405 bags of yellow were received from Queensland. The only sale recorded was that of 180 bags of local yellow submitted at auction which realised 8/3 per bushel. The bulk of the consignments was consigned to private buyers, no rates being disclosed. Receivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 259 bags of yellow and these stocks sold readily at 7/6 per bushel. Twenty bags of white also arrived Calcinia bitanco noti cinade del but no price was disclosed.

### Oats well supplied.

Consignments of oats totalled 59 trucks. A few trucks sold by private treaty realised 2/8 and 3/- per bushel. The bulk of consignments, however, was for private buyers and no rates were disclosed. During the period, 10 trucks were submitted at auction but the rates offered were not acceptable in a number of cases. Five trucks realised from 2/6 to 2/11 per bushel. Become much up and weeking to make a make weaking or

C.H.F.

#### ----0000000----

The Prime Minister has announced that a special subcommittee appointed by dairy industry organisations is at present revising production costs as the basis for a submission for a renewal of the dairy industry subsidy as from 1st April, 1944. the missource

Mr. Curtin pointed out that the subsidy of £6,500,000 for the year ending in March was calculated to build up the return to dairy farmers to at least 1/6 per 1b. commercial butter. He went on to say that this figure covered average production costs as estimated by the industry's own accredited representatives. por Grander Star Consensite Manually and Index to the Color of the Col

16/- per bucked for Jonathan, diction came, Consequin is and weighted 15-

Red across Arche opporations, deligner for stripps, legicle of the species was

mentioned by the Top of the contract of the second of the contract of the cont

### FRUIT AND VEC TA IE SATES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MA KETS, SYDNEY

### Stone fruits sell well.

Fairly large supplies of meaches grown in Co stal districts were forward early in January but subsequently there was a marked decline in quantities eccived from these sources. However, consignments from the jury imbidged Irrigat on Area, and occasionally from Victoria, assiste in maintaining an adequate supply. Yellow-fleshed varieties, rincipally Blac burns and Elbertas, predominated. Demand for he most part was good and although rates showed some fluctuations, the prices re lised generally were satisfactory from the growers' stincpoint.

trow we Both coastal and inland n ctarines were available; choice, large fruit met a ready sale and hi h prices were cota ned. Somo breakdown was apparent in packs from inland areas and losses were

Only moderate stocks of p ums were on off r, although consignments from country districts were ir creasing to ards the close of the month. Choice fruit so d up to 14/- per hilf-case, with a few special packs moving out at still higher rales.

The marketing of cherries was comple curing the month. Generally high prices ruled. Cheice Margarets vold p 0 20/- per quarter-case, while even more well obtained for an Total fonal special

Very few apricots were ob ainable after red-January and the small quantities received met a good inquiry at prices ranging 871201

# Dessert apples in request.

The quantity of dessert emples forward were r latively light early in the month and sur plins comprised more ly coastal fruit. There was an improvement tow rds the close of January, however, when more inland packs very received. Gravenstein, McIntosh Red and William's Favourita were in demand especially lots showing good size and satisfac ory colouring. Supplies of "cookers" generally were suffic ent to meet the legand. Included in receivals were fair quantities ( Granny Smiths and counts around 150 sold well; small sizes, nowever were of ser slow of sale. On Tuesday, 4th January, max mum rates were fixed at 18/per bushel for Gravensteins and 15/ for other var oties. These prices remained in force until [7t] January when a seiling rate of 18/- per bushel for Jonathan, Delic ous, Granny Sm :h und McIntosh Red came into operation. Other variaties, however, remained unaltered at 15/- per case. My 101 

### Supplies of Williams pears increase.

Marketing of both local and Victoria Williams pears commenced. Consignments from Victoria reached fairly large proportions towards the close of the month, and as stocks increased values had to be reduced to stimulate the demand necessary to enable satisfactory clearances to be effected. The small consignments of fruit forward from within this State showed considerable variation in quality: some choice packs sold to 25/- per bushel early in the month but at the close only a few lots were realising more than 17/- per bushel. Other grades were offered at from 12/- and in a few instances lower. A maximum rate of 20/- per bushel wholesale and 7 de per lb. retail came into force on the 25th January.

### Citrus fruit in light supply.

Supplies of Valencia oranges were light. On some days all counts up to 234 were reserved for Army needs with the result that retail trade requirements could not be met on these occasions. Values of small fruit appreciated and the maximum of 26/- per case was obtained for some counts above 234.

Keen demand ruled for lemons and the limited quantities available cleared at firm rates, the ceiling price of 25/- being paid for counts 200 and upwards.

### Rates for pineapples easc.

The limited supplies of pineapples available early in January created a firm market and up to 50/- per case was realised but values were not maintained subsequently. Demand generally was restricted and although the quantities coming forward were relatively light clearances could not be effected and by the end of the month values had declined considerably. Rates at closing ranged to 32/- per case.

### Melons in request

There was a keen inquiry for watermelons and little difficulty was experienced in disposing of all lines at the fixed price of 11/8 per cwt.

Fairly large consignments of cantaloupes were received from the Murrumbidgee Trrigation Area. Inquiry was very good and satisfactory prices were obtained, although showing a sharp decline towards the end of the month.

### Passionfruit more plentiful.

Passionfruit supplies from the North Coast increased and rates had to be reduced to enable clearances to be effected.

### Bananas sell at firm rates.

With only light to moderate consignments of bananas reaching the market, values were maintained at fairly high level throughout the period.

### Vegetable supplies decline.

The extremely dry and hot weather which prevailed throughout January was responsible for a marked falling-off in supplies of green vegetables towards the close of the period and a consequent rise in price levels. The adverse conditions were also reflected in the quality of many lines, noticeably peas, be and cabbages. Substantial rains are needed in practically all gring areas.

# Choice peas lightly supplied - rates reach maximum levels.

There was a heavy supply of peas on offer following th New Year holiday week-end, comprising about 4,000 bags. The quality generally was only medium to poor and with a slow inquir values were weak, the bulk of business being transacted at from 4/- to 8/- per bushel. The unsold surplus was cleared by the Department of Supply. Consignments were maintained at around 2,000 bags daily for the first three weeks of the month, but sales to the retail trade, apart from good quality lots, were insufficient to clear stocks and fairly large quantities were sold to canners. The position improved subsequently owing to a decline in supplies and prices rose sharply, the maximum of 21/per bushel being obtained on 24th January for the small percental of choice green lines. The bulk of supplies showed many bleached pods, and generally quality could only be classed as medium, whil a few lots were poor. The market closed very firm for quality descriptions.

### Prices of beans advance sharply.

Beans were heavily stocked at the commencement of business on 4th January following the holidays. With a quiet demand low prices ruled and large quantities remained unsold. Supplies, however, declined substantially with the result that by the middle of the month rates had advanced by about 5/- per bushel. Subsequently further rises in price levels occurred and the maximum of 20/- per bushel was obtained on 28th January.

### Tomatoes plentiful and cheaper.

On Tuesday, 4th January, a reduction in the wholesale selling rate of tometoes to 6d per 1b. came into force, equivalent to 12/- per half-case of 24 lbs. Owing to the extremely heavy supplies of local packs on offer, lower than the ceiling price had to be accepted except on 6th January, when some special lots

/realised ....

realised 12/- per half-case. During the balance of the month values fluctuated but only on a few occasions was 8/- exceeded while fairly large quantities of ripe fruit had to be disposed of to factories at low rates. Supplies are expected to be much lighter during February with a consequent advance in price levels.

### Market for cabbages improves.

With the decline in supplies of other green vegetables the market for cabbages improved. Early in January clearances were slow and surplus stocks were purchased on one occasion by the Department of Supply. Subsequently, however, little difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals and values showed a marked upward trend. The quality of the offerings varied considerably and ranged from choice to poor, some lines being badly grub infested.

### Root vegetables scarce.

There was a scarcity of loose carrots, parsnips and swede turnips, while bunched lines were also in short supply.

### Lettuce in request.

There was a better demand for lettuce owing to the hot weather prevailing and prices were maintained at higher levels than during the preceding month.

R.M.

# THE RECORD PRODUCTION OF CANADIAN BACON.

Canadian farmers are now supplying 80 per cent. of Britain's bacon products. With the 1943 objective of 8,000,000 hogs in sight, the country has reached record production. Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show a steady increase over the 1938 total of 3,500,000.

Pre-war, 70 per cent. of the bacon eaten in Britain came from Europe - principally Denmark. Canada's supreme effort to fill the bacon breach has been achieved by practising self-denial in home consumption and increasing the number and size of her in home consumption and increasing the number and size of her hogs. This has been attained despite war shortages of labour and farm machinery.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, a record for bacon production was also attained during the first World War, but in 1942 more Canadian bacon came to Britain than in the whole of the 1914-18 period.

# WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JANUARY, 1944, 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 Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics in respect of various commodities for the period indicated:-

Commodity. January, 1944	31st August, 1939.
From To	From To
Wheat: Home consumption:- Bulk - per bushel 3/114d (unchanged)	god) 2/4d
Flour - por ton £10.4.2 " (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - " " £6.0.0 (unchang £6.0.0 "	£4.5.0 £4.5.0
Eggs - por dozen 2/-	1/-
Butter (choice) per cwt. 169/4d "	gains and a second
	161/2d.
Choese: Loaf - per lb. 1/04d "	和 計画 电算
Large - " "	ild
Special Brands per 1b. 1/1d 1/32d	10½d 1/2d
DON'T PROMINE TO SELECT THE GROUP OF GROUP	
January 1944	2042 1 2000
From	From To
Good to prime per head:	A THE COURT OF A PART OF A
Porkers:	and a manufac
Extra light	
Light Medium weight 35/6	39/6
Medium weight 35/6 64/6 Heavy 45/6 70/6 Baconers 73/6 149/6	43/6 57/6 50/6 1.2.54/6
73/6 149/6	60/6
Backfatters £5.5.0 £13.1.0	£4.5.0 £8.10.0
Noto . Man	# S. DOLLANDER IN THOSE LIFE

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

### RETURN OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IMPORTED INTO NEW SOUTH WAIES BY LAND AND SEA - DECEMBER, 1943.

### FRUIT.

Lecanonia	STATE	Pineapples tropical cases	Bananas tropical cases.	Other Fruit cases	Pomatoes half-bushel cases	Melons crates	TOTALS pkges.
Same of the owner,	Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	9,145	2,126 212 - -	16,755 8,436 1,148	2,689 10,231	1,550	32,265 18,879 1,148
	TOTALS:	9,145	2,338	26,339	12,920	1,550	52,292

Note: 6 The fruit ex Queensland for November, 1943, should have been 21,735 cases and not 80,358 cases.

### VEGETABLES.

STATE	Potatoes bags	Onions bags	Swedes	Pumpkins bags	Cucs. & Chillies cases	Other Vegs. pkges.	TOTALS pkges.
Queensland Victoria Tasmania Sth. Aust. West Aust.	205 1,542 8,223 208	9,811 1,526 - 47	906	25,861 30 - -	2,744	3,780 2,316 62 476	42,401 5,414 9,191 811
TOTALS:	10,258	11,384	906	25,891	2,744	6,634	57,817

