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NEW SOUTH WALES STATE MARKETING BUREAU DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW



OCTOBER, 1944. Vol. 12. <u>No. 2</u>.

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

A. H. PETTIFER, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER. St 6949

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW.

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

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The recently-held Premiers' Conference affirmed the principle "that a strict system of branding and grading of beef, mutton and lamb on a quality basis be adopted in all capital cities and in other appropriate populated areas, and that the determination of wholesale ceiling and retail prices of such products be on a graded-quality basis, with due provision to meet the effects of drought in specified areas."

It has been announced that civilian meat consumption in Australia is to be cut down by rationing from the peace-time consumption of 722,000 tons to 540,000 tons per annum. The ration quota will be allocated from the anticipated meat target for this year of 1,000,000 tons and the balance of 460,000 tons is to be divided between the United Kingdom and Australian and U.S. Service

The Acting Prices Commissioner has issued an order fixing higher maximum retail prices for apples and pears sold in all States during October. The new price in Sydney is $9\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb and represents an additional $\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb.

The Prime Minister has announced that arrangements have been made with the British Government for Great Britain to purchase Australia's surplus dairy products until 30th June, 1948, and surplus meat up to 30th September of the same year.

The First Official Forecast of the current season's wheat yield in New South Wales is 20 million bushels, compared with $47\frac{1}{2}$ million in season 1943:44.

The Commonwealth Production Goal for rice for 1945/46 season has been determined at 43,000 acres. The whole of this area is confined to New South Wales, and it is estimated that it will be made up of an area of 35,000 acres on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, and up to 8,000 acres at Wakool.

THE CURRENT WHEAT SITUATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(By S.D. Robertson, Forecasting Section, Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics.)

The present wheat season gives every indication of being by far the worst since 1919:20. In that year a total area of 3,068,540 acres was under wheat but less than 1½ million acres was harvested for grain, total production being 4,388,000 bushels on an average yield of 3 bushels per acre. The worst year since that time was the 1940:41 season when production aggregated approximately 24 million bushels or 5.4 bushels per acre.

In 1919:20 practically the whole of the wheat crops failed but this year the drought has been mainly confined to the southern half of the wheat belt. Northern districts are experiencing a generally favourable season and good yields are anticipated but when it is borne in mind that this section of N.S.W. normally constitutes less than 20% of the total area harvested for grain it will be appreciated that unfavorable conditions in the southern half of the State connote a marked diminution in the harvest. In many southern districts very little rain has been received since late May and the dry conditions, associated with a succession of particularly severe frosts, have had a most detrimental effect.

The following figures with regard to rainfall have been compiled from data furnished by the Weather Bureau and show the average and actual rainfall respectively according to Statistical Divisions from the beginning of January, 1944, to the end of September. Similar figures indicating the incidence of rainfall during the growing period up to the end of September are also shown. They clearly illustrate the sad lack of moisture in the main wheatproducing areas. Even in the north rainfall was below average but precipitation occurred at favorable intervals during the growing period.

Statistical Division.	Normal Mean.	Actual Mean:	Normal Mean.	Actual Mean.
To the second states a state of	January -	- September.	April -	September.
Northern Tableland North Western Slope North Central Plain Central Tableland Central Western Slope Central Plain Southern Tableland	Pc 2270 1824 1527 2354 1713 1336 2039	pints. 2009 1519 1009 1380 1034 864 1284 971		ints. 1090 1043 718 1010 705 599 1068 809
South Western Slope Riverina	2014	574	.934	507

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According to returns made to the Wheat Stabilisation Committee up to the end of August there were 2,725,548 acres sown to wheat for grain in this State during the current season. Based upon conditions existent at the 28th September prospects might be classified as follows:-

Area Sown to Wheat for Grain.	Condition of Crops.
acres.	and the second
505,517	Good to excellent.
428,478	Fair to good.
1,176,610	Fair to poor.
560,966	Poor.
32,029	Very poor.

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It appears certain that there will be a marked reductic in the area to be harvested which was originally sown to wheat for grain. In those districts where seasonal conditions have been unfavorable many farmers have grazed off their crops because they considered it unlikely that they would mature grain. The lack of adequate natural pastures and the shortage of fodder generally have been potent factors influencing farmers in giving over to stock a larger percentage of crops than would ordinarily be the case.

Unfortunately, the districts which usually figure largely in the production of wheaten hay are included in that section of the wheat belt where the crop outlook is so unsatisfactory. In common with crops sown for grain those originally intende for hay for the most part have made insufficient growth and many have been grazed off. In view of the general fodder shortage it has been suggested that farmers in the more favored northern districts might cut a greater quantity of hay than usual in an endeavour to ease the situation and there are indications that contractors will cut a fair amount of hay, in some districts.

A similar position exists with respect to oat crops. Oats are largely produced in the wheat belt and the growing period approximates that of wheat. The cultivation of oats for grain, hay and green feed has shown a marked increase in recent years and, according to returns furnished to the Bureau of Statistics, farmers intended sowing 1,171,000 acres this season. However, in view of seasonal conditions, labour shortages, etc., it is thought unlikely that these anticipations were realised. Furthermore, oat crops whi were sown were heavily grazed and it appears inevitable that the outturn of grain and hay will be reduced substantially.

Attention is invited to the map of New South Wales (page 26a herein) which indicates the condition of the wheat crops of the State at the present time. It also largely serves as a guide to the position as far as oat crops are concerned.

Reports by Agricultural Instructors and Honorary Crop Correspondents as to crop conditions and prospects as at 6th October were carefully analysed and a total yield of 20,000,000 bushels of wheat for the current season has been forecast. A final forecast of production will be made about mid-November and some modification of that figure may be necessitated by the weather conditions prevailing during the next few weeks.

The following figures with regard to the production of wheat and wheaten hay, together with oats and oaten hay, during the ten seasons ended 1943/44, have been extracted from New South Wales Statistical Bulletins. They provide an interesting back-ground to the foregoing comment on current season's crops.

	WHEAT	(Grain).	OATS	(Grain).
SEASON .	AREA.	PRODUCTION.	AREA.	PRODUCTION.
	acres.	bushels.	acres.	bushels.
1934-35	3,892,768	48,670,000	237,405	3,856,680
1935-36	3,851,373	48,822,000	279,622	4,735,740
1936-37	3,982,864	55,668,000	235,817	3,967,560
1937-38	4,464,664	55,104,000	255,144	3,395,130
1938-39	4,650,872	59,898,000	399,449	4,831,110
1939-40	4,380,595	76,552,000	405,262	6,903,990
1940-41	4,453,963	23,933,000	236,910	1,995,340
1941-42	3,968,758	48,500,000	303,860	4,118,090
1942-43	3,032,946	51,963,000	431,299	7,338,213
1943-44	2,693,000	47,500,000	374,205	7,050,438

WHEATEN	HAY. OATEN	HAY
acres.	tons. acres.	tons.
1934-35 271,272 1935-36 224,632 1936-37 293,854 1937-38 348,339 1938-39 559,437 1939-40 264,239 1940-41 354,833 1941-42 346,261 1942-43 287,470 1943-44 198,000	342,000 349,174 267,000 328,866 352,000 342,334 350,000 312,337 612,000 413,002 373,000 349,266 271,000 248,493 315,000 289,943 373,000 351,985 250,000 252,300	434,011 396,706 389,488 317,814 430,824 460,369 177,070 283,978 448,368 329,905

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Choice apples sell well.

A good demand ruled for choice apples, except small sizes, particularly towards the close of the month when supplie declined appreciably. The position, however, was considerably better than that obtaining during September of last year when stocks were extremely light. The range of varieties on offer t season from both local and interstate sources was much better, included Delicious, Granny Smith, Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Democr Dougherty, Crofton, small quantities of Statesman, Cleopatra, a a few other kinds.

The ceiling rate was advanced to 23/- per bushel on 18th September and this price was paid for choice local Delicio and Granny Smith as well as for some lines of Victorian Jonathan and Rome Beauty. Much lower prices, however, had to be accepted for small sizes and over-mature lots of Victorian Jonathan and Beauty, while small local Granny Smiths were also obtainable at well below the maximum rate. For Western Australian Granny Smit up to 21/- was obtained but, owing to indifferent quality, many Tasmanian packs had to be sold to the best advantage. There was rise of 1/- per bushel in Tasmanian Democrats to 11/- for the be sizes. Up to 18/- was requested for Croftons but sales at this figure were limited and prices eased.

Pears in request.

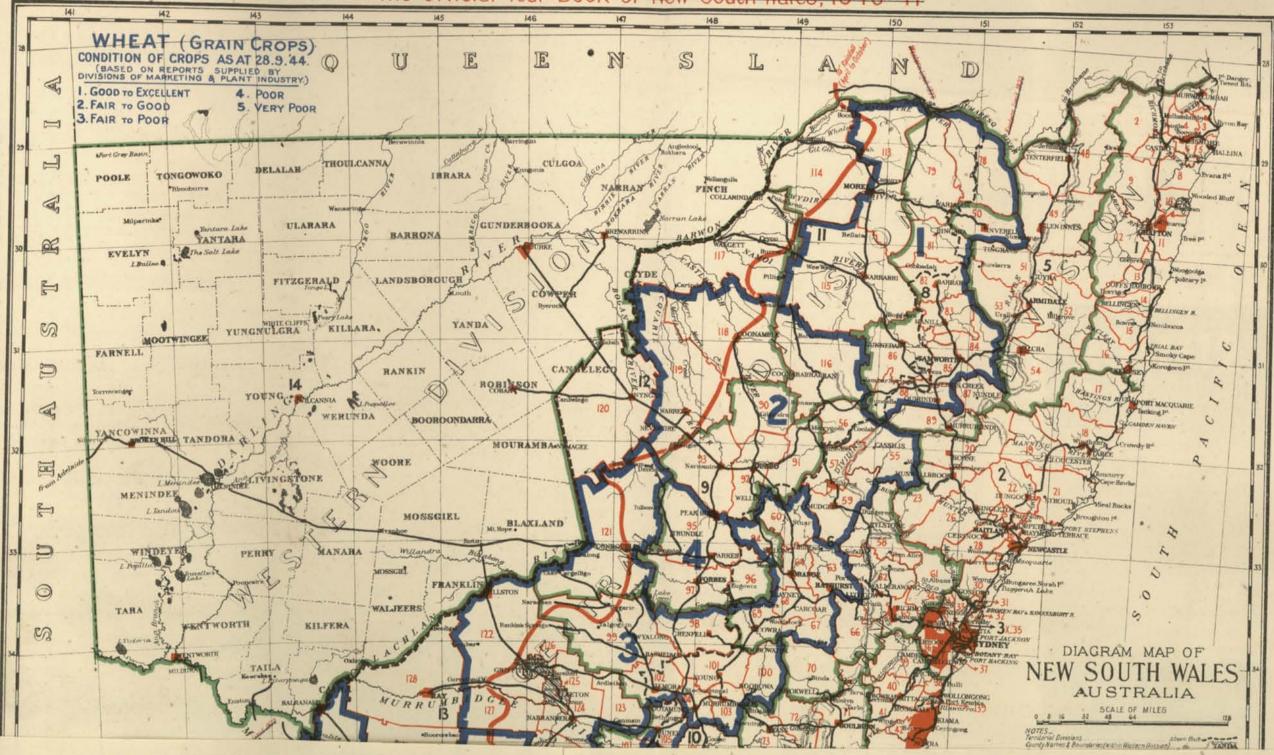
The maximum rate for pears was advanced to 24/- on lst September. Some local Packham's Triumph were forward and we cleared promptly at the prices mentioned. Victorian consignment declined and generally the quantities forward were insufficient meet the demand. The ceiling price ruled for other than some ve small sizes and over-mature fruit. The varieties available were mostly Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Josephir

Higher prices for Valencia oranges.

Supplies of Navels showed a rapid decline. After mi September only small quantities reached the market and the end o the season was in sight. Demand was very good and maximum rates ruled for the bulk of offerings.

Marketing of Valencias was begun and, with the limit stocks of Navels available, buyers had to turn their attention t this fruit to satisfy requirements. Large sizes sold very well, but counts above 163 met a restricted inquiry. On 18th September the ceiling price for Valencias was advanced by 3/- per bushel t 21/- but the top rate for Navels remained unchanged at 18/-; this

The Official Year Book of New South Wales, 1940-41



caused some confusion in the trade for a short period. The new rate of 21/- was obtained for selected sizes of Valencias.

Small lots of Joppas were available and some attractive packs realised up to 18/- per bushel.

Mandarins sell well.

There was a good inquiry for choice mandarins and large fruit sold up to 25/-, while a few special lines realised to 28/per bushel. Small fruit was neglected by buyers early in the month but better clearances were effected subsequently. The bulk of supplies comprised Emperors, although a few Ellendales were available.

Lemons move out quietly.

Trading in lemons generally was quiet and values showed only slight fluctuations during the month.

Light supplies of bananas.

Consignments of bananas continued to be light and fair average quality fruit sold readily at the ceiling price of seven pence per pound. Some "under" grade packs, however, had to be disposed of at lower levels.

Rates for pineapples improve.

Early in September, demand for pineapples was only moderate and sales were made at from 10/- to 20/- per case. The market showed an improvement subsequently and prices advanced, special packs realising the ceiling rate of 25/-. Bi-weekly consignments ranged from around 6,000 to slightly over 7,000 cases.

Choice passionfruit realise good prices.

Passionfruit supplies were relatively light and prices of choice packs were maintained at fairly high levels throughout the month.

Queensland strawberries faulty.

A large percentage of the Queensland strawberries which reached the market were affected by breakdown and much repacking was necessary before sales could be made. Rates generally were lower.

Supplies of peas increase appreciably.

During the first week of September a large percentage of the light supplies of peas reaching the market were weatherdamaged, while some lots from the North Coast opened up in a sweated condition. The small quantities of good quality on offer sold readily at the maximum of 23/4d per bushel, but much lower rates had to be accepted for other qualities.

Consignments showed a marked increase during the balance of the month and on some days over 2,000 bags were on agents' floors, while additional quantities were on offer in the growers' section of the market. As might be expected, values had to be reduced in order to enable clearances to be effected. Rates for good quality lots, however, were maintained at levels which were remunerative to growers owing largely to extensive purchases for Victorian requirements and for Service needs. Closing prices ranged from 10/- to to 18/-, with an occasional sale to 20/-, but poor quality lines sold from 5/- per bushel.

Maximum rate for beans raised.

Choice beans met a satisfactory request and the ceiling price of 20/- per bushel was obtained for both North Coast and Queensland consignments received early in the month, but lower prices had to be accepted for other quality lots.

On 12th September the maximum wholesale rate was increased to 25/- per bushel but the quality of offerings was not sufficiently high to command this price for a few days. The decline in Queensland consignments and the variable quality of North Coast stocks subsequently enabled agents to obtain the ceiling rate for a small percentage of supplies.

Small quantities of the new season's crop from the Gosford-Tuggerah district came to hand and were promptly cleared at 25/- per bushel. A few lots were also received from the Central North Coast but the quality generally was only medium.

Tomatoes in demand.

An exceptionally good demand ruled for tomatoes and towards the close of September buyers had difficulty in obtaining sufficient for their requirements. Local glasshouse tomatoes were keenly sought with the result that most sellers had to ration supplies to retailers and, apart from very small fruit, the maximum price of one shilling per pound was readily obtainable.

The bulk of offerings came from Queensland. Early consignments approximated 26,000 half-cases per week; the quantitie received subsequently were lighter, although still around the 20,000 mark. Prompt clearances were effected for all reasonably good quality packs and the greater proportion realised the ceiling rate of 24/- per half-case. Small quantities were forward from the North Coast, and a keen inquiry ruled for other than a number of packs of immature fruit.

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Season for cauliflowers ending.

Supplies of cauliflowers were relatively light as the season was practically finished; only isolated lots were expected to be available during October.

Choice lines met a good request and, on a number of occasions, up to 30/- was realised, while a few specials brought 34/- per dozen.

Cabbages other than choice slow of sale.

The market for cabbages generally was steady for choice lines but lower grade and seedy lots were often difficult to sell. Top rates ranged to about 8/- per dozen, although occasional sales were effected at higher levels.

Choice lettuce sell well.

Only light to moderate supplies of lettuce were available, although there was an upward trend in deliveries prior to the close of the month. Relatively high prices were obtained for choice lines on most days, but small heads' had to be sold to the best advantage on a number of occasions.

Heavy supplies of carrots - clearances effected.

Heavy supplies of loose carrots were forward at times and values had to be lowered during these periods. The market improved quickly when stocks were reduced and rates for choice washed lots reached the ceiling of 25/- per cwt. No bunched lines were available. Loose parsnips of choice quality were lightly stocked and sold at the top price of 28/- per cwt.

Beetroot more plentiful.

Considerably increased supplies of bunched beetroot were on offer and rates eased.

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A Rollingham SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY. Harden Martin astra

Supplies show further increase.

A further substantial increase in the number of sheep and lambs marketed occurred during September, when supplies totalle 397,864 head, representing an increase of about 79,000 on the previous month's aggregate. On a number of occasions the daily yarding exceeded 60,000 head, while a considerable improvement was manifest in the pennings of grown sheep. to environment

Sheep well represented.

Although the offerings of wethers and ewes were ' somewhat light during August, consignments during September were much heavier. A total of 147,040 head was available, representing an increase of approximately 14,000 head. Shorn descriptions comprised the bulk of supplies, fair to good trade descriptions being well in evidence. Prime heavy wethers were again scarce but ewes were well supplied. Fair numbers' of plain, aged sheep were also included in the offerings. also included in the offerings.

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Lower values for sheep. Generally the market for sheep was irregular but average values over the period were lower than those prevailing in August, the most pronounced decling being evident about the middle of the period. At the opening sales a dearer market ruled, the improvement mostly being from 1/- to 2/- per head. Subsequently. ivalues were lower and, during the following five auctions, rates progressively declined, the fall amounting to from 2/- to 5/- per head on good to prime, and more for all other grades. By the end of the month, however, realisations were a little better, the advance generally being from $1/_{-}$ to 1/6d per head. Despite the increased supplies offering; demand at all times was fairly consistent, while on a number of occasions the light yardings of wethers created a much stronger inquiry for suitable grades of ewes

In the following sales prices trends over the period

First Week.

Good trade 46 lb. wethers (skin 10/6d) made 34/10d each or 6d per " heavy 52 lb. wethers (" 1/-) " 32/1d " " 7¹/₄d " trade 40 lb. ewes 9900--!! 1/3d) " 21/4d " " 6d 11

Second Week.

Good trade 44 lb. wethers (skin 2/6d) made 25/10d each or 6td per 1b " " 46 lb. wethers (" 1/-) " 24/7d " " 6 d " 44 lb. ewes (" 2/-) " 20/1d " " 5d 11 11 11 11

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T	hi	r	d	Ne	9K	
			10000	And Address of	ALC: NO.	

Good	trade	45	lb.	wethers "	(skin (skin	1/6d) 2/3d)	made	23/9	d each	or II	6d per 5d "	+ O.L 11 11
11	11	40	11	ewes	(skin	2/-)	Ang an	16/1	10	1.22	42u	

Fourth Week.

Good	trade 46 " 42	lb.	wethers	(skin 3/- (" 1/-	made	25/5d each or 5½d 18/10d " " 5d 17/10d " " 4¼d	per lb. n n n n
11	" 46	11	ewes	(1/0		11/100	start and

Lower Cost of Mutton.

Although on one occasion heavy wethers realised to $7\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. and light to $7\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb., and heavy and light ewes to $5\frac{5}{2}d$ and 6d per lb., respectively, the average cost of mutton was not so high as **in** August. For the most part, heavy wether mutton ranged in price from $4\frac{1}{2}d$ to 6d and light from 5d to $6\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb., with outstanding lots of heavy wethers making from $6\frac{1}{2}d$ to 7d and light $6\frac{5}{2}d$ to $7\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. Light ewe mutton generally cost from 4d to $5\frac{1}{2}d$ for light, with heavy at $3\frac{5}{2}d$ to $4\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. At times, however, light ewes realised from $5\frac{1}{2}d$ to $5\frac{5}{2}d$ and heavy ewes from $4\frac{5}{2}d$ to $5\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. On occasions, prime wethers sold to 36/- each and ewes to 33/- but mostly good heavy sheep sold at from 20/- to 30/- and light at from 14/- to 25/- per head. Other grades of sheep sold at correspondingly lower levels, with some very plain descriptions making little better than skin values.

Lambs in heavy supply.

The number of lamb, and suckers offering continued to increase, suckers in particular being in heavy supply. Over the period a total of 250,824 head was auctioned, or about 65,000 more than was available last month. Summer lambs again showed a fallingoff in numbers but all classes were yarded, with medium trade quality lots numerous. Several lines of prime heavy lambs were, however, on offer.

Suckers, which comprised a substantial proportion of the pennings, included a fair percentage of good to prime descriptions. Having regard to the unfavourable seasonal conditions, suckers generally made a very fair showing, although a moderate proportion was of medium quality only.

Variable lamb market.

Values of lambs and suckers showed a good deal of variation but the rise and fall in prices closely followed prices trends in relation to grown sheep. The opening market was dearer but this improvement was lost later and most classes were from 2/- to 5/- cheaper. Towards the close of the period, however, some improvement was apparent but the fall in prices was not fully recovered. The market closed with values at a lower level than those ruling at the beginning of the period.

In the sales listed below an indication is given of the variable state of the market:-

First Week.

Good trad	e 36 1b.	lambs	(skin 7/6d " 4/-) made	32/10d	each	or 8gd	per
" heav	y 38 lb.	suckers						11
" hoat	y 40 lb.	lambs	(" 7/6d)	33/11d		" 8d	in l

Second Week.

Good	trade 3:	2 16.	Lambs	(skin	7/	(6d)	made	29/1d	each or	8ªd per	1
đ	" 3.	4 lb.	suckers	(11	4/	-)		26/6d	Tarde a Date		
a section of	" 42	B lb.	suckers	("	6/	-)	1. 19th 31	32/4d	这些诗事:"这些诗事"	7금리 "	н

Third Week.

Good	trade	34 lb.	suckers	(skin 4/	-) made	24/10d	each or	7ad per 1
an an ang			suckers		6d)	27/9d	.U U	8d "
1) (a) [1]	heavy	45 lb.	lambs	(" 4/	6d) "	27/11d	NUNDER PR	6 [±] d "

Fourth Week.

法国

Good heavy 38 lb. suckers (skin 4/6d) made 27/6d each or 7¹/₄d per 1 " " 38 lb. lambs (" 2/6d) " 23/1d " " 6¹/₂d " " Prime heavy 56 lb. lambs (" 7/-) " 40/4d " " 7¹/₄d "

Lamb again cheaper

Following on lower prices for lamb and sucker during August, lamb was again cheaper during September. The highest price obtained per pound for good to prime suckers was $9\frac{1}{2}d$, wherea up to $9\frac{5}{2}d$ was paid in the previous month. Generally, however, hea lambs and suckers were worth from 6d to $7\frac{1}{2}d$, with some outstanding lots at $7\frac{1}{2}d$ to $8\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb. at sales held early in the month. Light weight carcases made from $6\frac{1}{4}d$ to 8d per lb. but at times from 8d to 9d was realised.

Having regard to the over-all quality of the pennings and the increased supplies, values generally were satisfactory. There are indications that there will be a continuance of heavy yardings of grown sheep and lambs and suckers and it is problematical whether future markets will be maintained at existing price levels.

Improved Cattle Supplies.

Supplies of cattle during September showed some increase, pennings aggregating 10,760 head, including 1,438 auctioned in the store section. The quality was again most variable and the general standard was no better than that of the previous month. Many beasts arrived in a condition which indicated only too plainly the serious effect of the drought in many inland stock-raising areas. Conditions continued to be more or less satisfactory in the north-east quarter of the State but elsewhere the pastoral position deteriorated.

During the month the Controller of Meat Supplies took action to acquire 25% of operators ! killings which are suitable for military requirements. This is in addition to the acquisition of · the forequarters of each beast. Where the complete carcases are requisitioned, however, operators receive ceiling prices for the total weight. Where forequarters only are concerned, payment is made at a lower rate. Values of cattle generally receded during the month and this Order, in addition to heavier supplies of sheep and lambs, was probably partly responsible.

Queensland bullocks augment local supplies.

For the most part bullocks were lightly supplied, although on occasions they made an improved showing. This was particularly so when Queensland consignments were available. Lightweights predominated but most of the Queensland drafts were of heavier weights. Quality ranged chiefly from fair to good trade. Although not equal to the extreme rates ruling at the close of August, values at opening were high, quotations ranging to 73/- per 100 lb. for medium weights and to 69/- for lightweights. The market subsequently showed a weaker tendency on successive saledays until the middle of the month when values declined considerably, 53/- per 100 lb. being the highest quotation. Later rates showed a rise and, at closing, lightweights realised to 55/- per 100 lb. During the third week the highest rate per 100 lb. was noted in respect of heavy bullocks which realised to 56/- per 100 lb., and on a per head basis to £24.16.0. a de graterious acos des autorites districtes deserte

F tellar Prime steers scarce and those wert altron and the alternative light

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the every set is and it is an and the set of the set of the The showing of steers during the month was only fair while, towards the close, it could be described as poor. On occasions good trade to prime descriptions were available in moderate numbers but generally small, inferior grade sorts comprised the bulk of the consignments.

The market was dearest at opening when quotations ranged to 59/- per 100 lb. Values eased until the middle of the month and then remained fairly steady, with quotations ranging from 50/- to 56/- per 100 1b.

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Steady market for cows.

Consignments of cows were variable, being limited at times and moderate on other occasions. Quality also fluctuated considerably. Prime heavy sorts generally made a relatively good showing but, on a few saledays, the general standard was poor.

Although values fluctuated, alterations in quotations were not marked and were caused chiefly by variations in quality. On the average, good quality steers sold to about 50/- per 100 lb. The market was very strong at closing when quotations for prime lightweights ranged to 53/- per 100 lb.

Steady market for heifers.

Heifers were somewhat scarce and generally this class of beast was available in odd lots only, especially prime descriptions. Heifers were practically unobtainable during the first week and, by the time supplies were forward, the market for cattle generally had declined to more reasonable levels.

From the second week onward, values remained fairly steady, quotations for good to prime descriptions, covering all grades of weight, ranging chiefly from 50/- to 56/- per 100 lb.

Poor quality vealers.

Except on the final saleday, vealers made a very poor showing. Even when consignments reached moderate proportions small, inferior grade beasts comprised the great bulk of the pennings. As a result, any good quality drafts met a keen demand.

Harris Sa

On the opening sale-day values reached 75/- per 100 lb. These rates, however, were not maintained and the market declined until the middle of the month when quotations ranged from 50/- to 60/- per 100 lb. The market then improved and, at closing, values ranged to 69/- per 100 lb. Fluctuations in prices were due partly to variations in quality.

Reduced pennings of pigs.

Supplies of pigs during the early part of September were only moderate but consignments increased progressively and were heavy at the close. The monthly aggregate was below that of the previous period, 7,975 head being penned for auction, of which 5,103 arrived by rail. Sales by private treaty totalled 1,554 head.

Irregular market for baconers.

Baconers continued to be well represented with quality ranging chiefly from fair to good trade. Light and medium weights predominated early in the period but on subsequent sale-days heavier descriptions were more plentiful.

The market for baconers again displayed an irregular tendency, although alterations in rates were not so marked as during August. Values were lowest at opening when heavy descriptions sold to $\pounds7.5.6$ per head while, on a per pound basis, prices ranged from $8\frac{1}{2}$ d to $9\frac{1}{2}$ d, the latter figure being in respect of prime pigs in the 160/180 lb, class. The market was firm on the following saleday but values again receded during the afternoon of the third auction. The final sale saw the market at a steady level, with prices per head ranging from £3.15.6 to £7.9.6 and equivalent rates per lb., chiefly from 9d to $9\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Heavy backfatters in keen demand.

Backfatters were mostly in relatively short supply and there was a scarcity of prime heavy sorts. General quality was only fair.

A steady market ruled during the first half of the period, with prices ranging from $5\frac{1}{2}d$ to 6d per lb. A firmer tone was apparent subsequently and, at closing, prime heavy sorts were worth $6\frac{1}{2}d$ per lb.

Increased supplies of porkers.

Porkers continued in light supply during the first half of the month but, at the third sale, consignments were the largest for some time. All grades of weight and quality were represented but prime lots were fairly scarce. Many suitable stores, however, were noticed and the demand for these, for the most part, was very keen.

Prices again reached relatively high levels and, on one saleday, quotations for lightweights ranged to 14d per 1b. Rates for the most part, however, ranged from about 9d to 10gd per 1b.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

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Heavy supplies of potatoes.

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Consignments of local potatoes at Alexandria Goods Yard showed a considerable falling, only 2,890 bags, chiefly Factors, being available. Included in the total were 355 bags of seed, which Supplies from Victoria, totalling 48,147 bags, showe a considerable increase; these supplies consisted of New and No. grade Carmans and Snowflakes, also a few No. 3 grade. The bulk made available for civilian use with the exception of about 5,00 bags which it was necessary to regrade owing to mechanical injur greening, etc.

Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania showed a mar increase when 191,284 bags were received as against 58,278 bags August. The tubers chiefly comprised No. 1 grade Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes and Up-to-Dates. A fairly large percentag was made available for general trading purposes, the remainder go to essential services and the Federal authorities. Wholesalers' prices for No. 1 grade were £7.17.6; No. 2 and No. 3 grade £7.5.0 Chats £6.5.0. Primary merchants' rates to wholesalers are £1.5.0 per ton less than the figures quoted.

At Darling Harbour Landing, 17 trucks of New Carmans and Snowflakes were received from Victoria. Two trucks of seed received from local centres but these were disposed of privately and no rates were disclosed.

Slow demand for swedes.

Supplies of swedes totalled 1,824 bags from local centres. At Alexandria, early sales were effected at £8 to £9, a few at £10, but later demand was very slow except for choice is sales being made at £8, subsequently reduced to £6, with inferior lines at £2 to £4. Some lines of stock feed cleared at 1/- per b

Tasmanian arrivals in Sussex Street increased to 8,00 bags as compared with 5,194 bags last month. Opening sales were made at £9 but later clearances were effected at £8, with some lo as low as £5 per ton.

Carrots continue in light supply.

Receivals at Alexandria comprised consignments from Queensland amounting to 627 bags. These opened up in very good condition and disposals were made at £14 to £14.10.0 per ton. Tasmanian arrivals aggregated 1,505 bags, the bulk being sold at the lower rate of £10 per ton.

Tasmanian parsnips cheaper.

No fresh supplies came to hand at Alexandria but, ear in the period, 1,854 bags received from Tasmania were disposed of at £8 per ton.

Beetroot, and sweet potatoes,

Arrivals of Queensland beetroot amounted to 299 bags, which were in demand at £14 to £15.10.0 per ton. Sweet potatoes, also from Queensland, consisted of 82 bags which realised £14.10.0 per ton.

Queensland pumpkins scarcer and dearer.

Receivals of pumpkins at Alexandria showed a considerable falling-off; 55 trucks were received from Queensland and only 3 trucks and 108 bags from local centres. In the first half of the month supplies were fairly good and sales of Queensland lots were effected at £16 to £18 per ton.

Consignments subsequently were smaller and rates gradually increased, sales being recorded at £19 to £21 per ton.

Arrivals at Darling Harbour Landing included 5 trucks from Queensland, for which no rates were disclosed. Local lots sold at £19 per ton.

From districts on the North Coast, 1 truck and 101 bags arrived in Sussex Street. These realised £17 to £19 per ton.

Onions again scarce.

No consignments of onions were available from Queensland or Victoria during the period.

Oaten chaff supplies exceptionally light.

Consignments of oaten chaff showed a considerable falling off, stocks, which totalled 94 trucks, being the lowest for many months. In the first half of the period practically all lots on offer sold at maximum ceiling rates regardless of quality. On lith September ceiling prices were increased by £1.5.0 per ton and sales of good sound lots were effected at £9 to £10, with prime lines at £9.15.0 to £10.5.0 per ton.

Wheaten chaff in light supply.

Receivals of wheaten chaff were exceptionally light, only half of last month's total coming to hand. Supplies consisted of 8 trucks of good sound which early brought £8.5.0 and up to the ceiling level of £9 per ton. Later, maximum rates were increased to £10.5.0 and some sales of good sound were effected at £9.5.0 to £10 per ton. At auction, 1 truck of medium realised £7.16.8 per ton.

Lucerne chaff scarce.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff totalled only 28 trucks, including 2 trucks from Queensland. All lines on offer met with keen inquiry, especially prime lines. Clearances were made at the following rates: - inferior £9.10.0; medium and good sound £10 to £12.10.0; prime £12 to £13.10.0; a few choice £13.10.0 per ton.

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Heavy supplies of Maitland lucerne hay.

Consignments from the Maitland district showed a marked improvement when 115 trucks came to hand. This constituted the highest monthly total since September of last year. Demand continued very good although rates were a little lower. The bu The bulk of new soft green lots sold at £4 to £5.15.0, with a few at £6 per ton.

Some very soft inferior lots sold at £2 to £3, and a few dump-baled lots brought £6.10.0; medium dry realised £5.10.0 to £6 per ton.

Supplies from other centres showed a considerable falling-off, only 22 trucks coming to hand. Prime and choice lots were exceptionally scarce. Sales were made as follows: - inferior grassy £4 to £6, grassy £7, medium £7 to £8.10.0, good sound £9 to £10, with a few £11.10.0, choice £12 to £12.10.0 per ton. A few dump-baled lots of good sound realised £11.15.0 per ton.

Limited supplies of oaten hay.

Oaten hay continued to be scarce; 14 trucks of rack wer received, also 1 truck of derrick-pressed. Early sales of good sound were made at £7.5.0, with some sales at the ceiling level of £7.15.0 per ton. Later, ceiling rates were increased by £1.5.0 per ton and clearances were then effected of medium lots at £6.15.0, good sound at £7.5.0 to £7.10.0, with a few lines selling at £9 per ton.

Straw sells well.

Straw consignments amounted to 27 trucks which included 20 trucks of oaten, 5 trucks of wheaten and 2 trucks of rice straw. All lines were in demand and sales of prime oaten were made at £7.5.0 to £7.10.0, with prime wheaten at £6.15.0 to £7.5.0. Sales of rice straw, which was in very good condition, were effected at £6 per ton.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING SEPTEMBER, 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.	September, 1944.	<u>31st August, 1939</u> .
Wheat: Home consumption - Bulk - per bushel	3/11 ¹ /1 (unchanged)	2/4d
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 " (plus £2.8.10 tax)	£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged) £6.0.0 "	£4.5.0 £4.5.0
Pollard - " " Eggs - per dozen	1/9d to 1/7d	1/-
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4d (unchanged)	161/2d
Cheese: Loaf - per lb. Large - " " Special Brands - per lb.	1/0 ¹ / ₂ d " 1/- 1/1d to 1/3 ¹ / ₂ d	11d 10½d 1/2d
	September, 1944. From To	<u>29th August, 1939</u> . From To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales): Good to prime per head -		.cod- 204
Porkers - Extra light Light Medium weight Heavy Baconers Backfatters	26/6d 56/6d 39/6d 56/6d 44/6d 72/6d 58/6d 75/6d £3.10.6d £7.9.6d £5.10.0 £14.3.6d	31/6d 40/6d 39/6d 44/6d 43/6d 57/6d 50/6d 54/6d 60/6d 75/6d £4.5.0 £8.10.0
Notos The nig	sales nearest 31st Augu	ust, 1939,

Note:

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