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# Review of



# Marketing and

# Agricultural Economics

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THE DOCKET SYSTEM FOR FARM PRODUCE SALES.

As mentioned in the foreword of this publication, the introduction of a docket system for sales of farm produce by agents and merchants will be given effect to at an early date, the necessary amendments of the Farm Produce Agents' Act Regulations having been gazetted on 3rd August, 1945.

Regulation 12 (1) of the Act requires every Farm Produce Agent to keep at his registered office and at every other place at which he carries on business various books relating to his transactions as a farm produce agent. Those sections of the Regulation which have been amended, with the new provisions underlined, are as follow:-

- (1) (c) Cash Sales Book in which shall be recorded at the time of sale the following particulars of all farm produce sold for cash, viz., dates sold, consignors' names or initials or brands or marks, quantities, description, and the rate or price paid for each lot, and the amount received: Provided that a Cash Sales Book need not be kept where a Cash Sales Receipt Book is required to be kept pursuant to paragraph (f) of this clause.
- (c) Register of farm produce destroyed or cast away in which shall be entered the quantity and description of farm produce destroyed or cast away, the consignor's name and brand or mark (if any), the reason for such destruction or casting away and a reference to the direction or authority given by a prescribed officer of the Department of Agriculture, health officer or officer of the Municipal Council of Sydney.
- (f) Cash Sales Receipt Book from which shall be issued to each cash purchaser of farm produce at the time of purchase a receipt for the farm produce purchased, showing date sold, name of farm produce agent, name and address of purchaser, consignor's name or initials or brand or mark, quantities, description, variety, rate or price paid for each lot and the amount received: Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to cash sales of cabbages and cauliflowers.
- (2) The Credit Sales Receipt Book, Cash Sales Receipt Book and Delivery Receipt Book shall have the forms of receipt numbered consecutively in duplicate, and the farm produce agent shall, when issuing any receipt therefrom, cause a carbon copy to be taken on the duplicate form, which shall remain bound in the Book concerned.

It has also been necessary to amend Regulation 13 of the Act. Regulation 13 (1) requires any person who purchases for resale any farm produce from the person by whom it was produced to keep

at his principal place of business and at every other place at which he carries on business specified books with regard to his transactions. The amended sections of Regulation 13, with the new provisions underlined, are as under:-

(1) (d) Cash Sales Book in which shall be recorded at the time of sale the following particulars of all farm produce sold for cash, viz., dates sold, producer's name or initials or brand or mark, rate or price paid for each lot, and the amount received: Provided that a Cash Sales Book need not be kept where a Cash Sales Receipt Book is required to be kept pursuant to paragraph (f) of this clause.

(f) Cash Sales Receipt Book from which shall be issued to each cash purchaser of farm produce at the time of purchase a receipt for the farm produce purchased, showing date sold, name of farm produce agent, name and address of purchaser, producer's name or initials or brand or mark, quantities, description, variety, rate or price paid for each lot and the amount received: Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to cash sales of cabbages and cauliflowers.

(2) The Credit Sales Receipt Book, Cash Sales Receipt Book and Delivery Receipt Book shall have the forms of receipt numbered consecutively in duplicate, and a carbon copy of the receipt shall be taken on the duplicate form, which shall remain bound in the Book concerned.

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Issued by authority of the Minister for Agriculture  
(HON. E.H. GRAHAM, M.L.A.)  
and prepared under the direction of the Chief of the  
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DOCKET SYSTEM FOR SALES OF FARM PRODUCE.

The publication in the N.S.W. Government Gazette for August 3, 1945, of amendments to Regulations under the Farm Produce Agents Act (detailed on Pages 211 and 212 of this Review) now renders compulsory the issue of docket receipts for cash sales of farm produce transacted by agents and merchants. This system was actually a requirement under the Act some years ago, but ceased to be a compulsory feature of trading when the provisions were repealed in 1932. Persistent representations since that time by fruit and vegetable growers' organisations have pointed in no uncertain terms to the need for re-introduction of the system, and in both the Report of the Royal Commission on the Fruit Industry (1939) and Judge Markell's report on the Apple and Pear Board (1944) the institution of docket receipts was also strongly recommended. It will be a matter for satisfaction amongst producers that at long last the system is again operable, and growers generally have been generous in their congratulations to the Minister for Agriculture for making this possible. Not of least importance in the steps taken to bring the scheme into effect were the round-table conferences convened by this Department with representative producers, agents and retailers to discuss details of the provisions and their implementation.

The docket system will afford protection to the producer and the agent, and to some extent the retailer and the consumer. If a producer considers that his account sales are not what they should be, the Department can investigate any complaints by examining the original docket held by the retailer and the duplicate docket retained by the farm produce agent. It would have been quite impracticable to arrange for the writing of dockets in triplicate so that one copy might be sent to the consignor of farm produce. It has to be remembered that a retail fruiterer, for example, may purchase from one agent several lines which have come from a number of different growers, thus making it impossible for each consignor to get a docket. The new system, too, will assist to some extent in price control but not until issue of dockets is enforced in the case of growers selling their own produce can Prices Regulations be effectively policed. This, however, could not be arranged under the Farm Produce Agents Act.

*H. G. Hynes.*  
Chief of Division.