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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**September, 1947.****SHEEP.****Improvement in Supply Position.**

Although pennings were relatively light, supplies showed some improvement on the previous month's aggregate but were below the total of 236,781 head offered during the corresponding month last year. During the period, yardings amounted to 211,951 head, representing an increase of 31,525 on the August total. It is expected that, with shearing operations virtually completed and the advent of the main body of sucker lambs, a marked improvement in numbers available will be evident.

Trade Sheep Numerous.

The number of sheep penned was higher and totalled 92,627 head, good useful trade shorn descriptions comprising a fairly large proportion of the pennings. Some very attractive drafts of prime heavy sheep were included, while at times consignments were available carrying very heavy skins. Generally, wethers were more in evidence than ewes. However, more ewes should be available after the sucker lambs have been marketed.

Market Variable.

Values of sheep showed some variation throughout the month, the cost of mutton reaching high levels and exceeding the peak prices ruling during August. At the opening sales rates advanced and were up to 2s. above last month's closing values, while at the following sales demand further improved and the market was from 1s. to 3s. dearer. Little material change occurred until the middle of the month when inquiry was not nearly so strong, and most classes of sheep were from 2s. to 5s. per head cheaper. Values recovered partly at the following auctions, an improvement of from 1s. to 2s. per head taking place; this, however, was not sustained, and by the end of the month prices showed a fall of from 2s. to 4s. per head. At times record high prices were paid for full-woolled Merino wethers, one consignment selling to 83s. per head, the highest realisation for many years. Quite a few sales were effected at from 70s. to 73s., with other good quality lots making from 35s. to 65s. each. Good heavy wether mutton was worth up to 9d. per lb., while light carcasses cost up to 9¼d. per lb. Ewes also sold remarkably well, realising at times 62s. per head, while quite a few drafts made from 50s. to 60s. each. Prices for other good trade ewes ranged from 32s. to 48s., plainer grades being lower. Both light and heavy ewe mutton cost to 7¾d. per lb. during the period. On the attached schedule variations in the rates per lb. for good to prime mutton over the month are indicated.

Suckers in Heavier Supply.

Suckers were in much heavier supply during the period and comprised a good proportion of the offerings on each sale day. The yardings throughout the month totalled 119,325 head, which represented an increase of about 21,000 head on the previous

month's total. Good to prime light descriptions were well in evidence, while satisfactory numbers of good to prime heavy grades were also included. Some particularly fine quality drafts were submitted having good conformation and finish. Fewer summer lambs were yarded, while hoggets for the most part were in relatively short supply.

Lamb Prices Decline.

Rates for lambs and suckers did not vary to any appreciable extent during the greater part of the month and prices remained fairly steady. Later in the period, however, demand was not so strong, due primarily to the increased numbers available, and prices were lower for all descriptions. At the three sales held towards the close of the month, on the 22nd, 25th and 29th of September, rates showed a decline of from 2s. to 6s. per head, the cost of heavy lambs ranging from 8¼d. to 9¾d. per lb., and light 9¾d. to 10¾d. per lb., although at the period of highest realisations they were worth to 11½d. and 12½d. per lb., respectively. On a per head basis some exceptionally good quality heavy lambs sold to 62s. per head, while sales were also made at from 55s. to 60s. each for prime extra heavy lines. Other good quality heavy suckers were disposed of at from 46s. to 54s. each. Good to prime light grades of lambs and suckers made to 49s., while others sold from 32s. to 46s. per head according to weight and quality. Plainer grades of suckers realised relatively lower prices.

Hoggets were fairly scarce throughout, and rates were steady for the most part, although at the close of the month values showed a decline. Operators paid to 9¾d. per lb. early in the period, but by the end of the month rates ranged from 7¾d. to 8¼d. per lb.

Price trends per lb. of lambs and hoggets during the period are given on the accompanying schedule.

Values shown in pence per lb.:—Based on selling price per head of live animal and estimated dressed weight of carcass. Skin values excluded.

Date of Sale.	Number Yarded.	Lambs.		Hoggets	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1947.		d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.
Sept. 1	19,600	9 -11	11 -12½	8½-9¼	7½-8¾	7¾-9	6¼-7½	6¾-7¾
4	16,268	9 -11½	11 -12½	8¾-9¾	7¼-9	8 -9¼	6½-7¾	7 -7¾
8	19,357	9 -11¼	11 -12½	8¾-9¼	7½-8¾	7¾-8¾	6¼-7½	7 -7½
11	25,810	8½-11¼	11 -12½	8½-9¼	7½-9	7¼-9¼	6¼-7¼	7 -7½
15	25,062	8½-11	11 -12½	8½-9	7 -8¼	7¼-8¼	5½-7	6½-7
18	23,567	8¾-11	11 -12½	8¾-9¼	7½-8¼	7¾-8½	6 -7¼	6½-7¼
22	21,955	8½-10¾	10 -12	8½-9	7½-8¼	7¾-8½	6 -7¼	6½-7¼
25	28,995	8½-10½	10 -11¼	8¼-8¾	7 -7¾	7¼-8	6 -6¾	6 -7
29	31,337	8¼-9¼	9¾-10¼	7¾-8¼	6½-7½	6¾-7¾	5¾-6½	5¾-6¾

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Supplies Again Lighter.

Nine sales were held during the month and the average number yarded declined from 2,121 for each August sale to 1,840 during the period under review. The aggregate of 16,566 included 2,162 auctioned in the store section.

Grown stock were well represented throughout the month, but the number of bullocks over 775 lb. on offer was not equal to the previous period's pennings. Quality showed little overall variation from day to day and was chiefly of good trade standard with a sprinkling of prime weighty descriptions. Prices ruling during the month are shown in the attached schedule.

Steady Demand for Bullocks.

Heavy bullocks were available on six sale days only, and the difference in quality of the yardings was reflected in the price which, despite a steady demand, varied in a somewhat irregular manner from 59s. to 68s. per hundred pound. Medium weight lots were well supplied and values advanced from 60s. to 65s. at the commencement to a peak of 62s. to 70s. This high rate was not maintained and the closing sales of 62s. to 66s. were made in a declining market.

Light bullocks were well in evidence and demand was keen throughout. Prices were firm at opening at 60s., 65s. and rose slowly over the period. Closing sales were made at 62s. to 68s. per 100 lb.

Steers Sell Well.

Supplies of steers were well maintained, most grades of weight and quality being included, although light to medium weights of fair to good trade standard comprised a large proportion of the yarding. Weighty steers of prime description were available in small numbers only.

Early rates of 60s. to 67s. were much the same as the previous month's closing sales, and values generally during the period showed little variation. Final quotations were 60s. to 68.

Supplies of Cows Improve.

Cows made an improved showing in comparison with the previous month's yarding. Light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard were well in evidence but some sale days saw a sprinkling of prime heavy drafts.

Rates during the first half of the month were very firm and top values were from 54s. to 56s. for heavy, and 55s. to 56s. for light beasts. The last three sales saw an improvement in quality and prices showed an advance, final realisations being 50s. to 56s. for heavy, and 54s. to 59s. for light cows.

Heifers in Demand.

The number of heifers coming to hand varied from day to day and generally were insufficient to meet buyers' requirements. Lightweights predominated and quality was generally of good trade standard with only a few prime drafts on offer. Values at early sales were very firm although slightly lower than August's closing rates. Prices then advanced rapidly and 60s. to 66s. per 100 lb. was realised at the end of September.

Vealer Market Unchanged.

Supplies of prime heavy animals were very limited, but light and medium weight drafts of fair to good trade standard were well represented. The top rate of 75s. per 100 lb. was unaltered throughout the month but the lower range of values varied from 68s. to 72s. according to the quality of the offering.

Values shown in shillings per 100 lb.—Based on selling price per head of live beast and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date.	No. Yarded	Bullocks.			Steers.	Cows.		Heifers.	Vealers.
		Heavy over 775 lb.	Med. 675-775 lb.	Light 575-675 lb.	All Wts.	Heavy over 575 lb.	Light 400-575 lb.	All Wts.	All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.
1947.									
Aug. 28	2,553	...	60-65	60-65	58-67	50-54	51-56	54-62	66-75
Sept. 1	1,732	59-63	60-65	60-65	60-67	50-54	51-56	55-60	66-75
" 4	2,631	...	58-66	60-66	60-67	49-55	51-56	55-60	68-75
" 8	980	...	60-65	60-65	60-65	49-54	51-56	54-62	68-75
" 11	2,299	63-66	62-67	62-67	62-67	50-56	50-55	56-60	72-75
" 15	1,085	...	60-67	62-67	61-68	50-55	50-56	58-65	69-75
" 18	2,285	57-62	60-67	62-67	61-68	50-56	50-55	58-65	69-75
" 22	1,598	61-68	62-70	62-68	61-68	50-58	52-60	58-66/6	70-75
" 25	2,305	63-67	62-68	64-68	60-68	50-58	52-60	58-66	68-75
" 29	1,651	60-65	62-66	62-68	60-68	50-56	54-59	60-66	68-75

B. G. O'CONNELL.

PIGS.**Increased Supplies Available.**

Some improvement was evident in the numbers of pigs available during the month although supplies were still insufficient to meet full trade requirements. Yardings for the period totalled 7,207 head, including 3,529 received by rail, principally from country districts. This represented an increase of 1,053 head on the previous month's aggregate, but was below the total of 8,350 head offered for the corresponding period in 1946.

Rates for Baconers Advance.

The strong demand continued for all classes of baconers. Operators bid freely for all suitable lots and realisations showed a further advance on the ruling high rates of August. Quality of the pigs submitted was good, light to medium weight grades of good trade quality being well represented throughout. Moderate supplies of good to prime heavy grades were included, while some particularly well finished drafts of extra heavy pigs were noticed. The market was somewhat irregular throughout but, for the most part, values showed an upward trend; realisations again reached high levels. Opening sales were firm, but at the following auctions realisations were higher, more particularly for light to medium weight descriptions. Later in the period a further advance occurred, the market for all classes closing strong. Light-weight baconers made from £4 18s. 6d. per head and were worth up to 13¼d. per lb., while medium and heavy-weight descriptions sold to 13d. per lb. Extra heavy pigs in the 200 to 240 lb. weight grade classification cost up to 11¼d. per lb. and made up to £10 18s. 6d. per head. Viewing prices generally, they could be regarded as the highest for many years and, until such time as supplies materially increase, a continuance of the strong tone of the pig market can reasonably be expected.

Record High Levels for Backfatters.

All classes of backfatters met with a keen inquiry and values generally were well maintained at the high level ruling at the close of the previous month, with some improvement in prices evident at times. For the most part good trade light to medium weight pigs were well supplied, while good to prime heavy sorts were at times well represented. Some exceptionally high prices were obtained, a line of prime heavy sows making £19 11s. 0d. per head, the highest price recorded for about 25 years. Several lots offered were disposed of at from £16 16s. 0d. to £17 3s. 6d. per head. Good quality light-weights, estimated to dress from 250 lb. to 350 lb. made to 9½d. and heavy pigs estimated to dress over 350 lb. were worth to 9¼d. per lb. The accompanying schedule indicates price trends during the month.

Pork Dearer.

Only moderate numbers of good quality porkers were penned. A large proportion of those offered were good to prime, medium to heavy descriptions, light-weights being in relatively short supply. A good demand was evident and while values were irregular at times, the average cost of pork was higher than in August. Prices of extra light porkers ranged from 39s. 6d. to 66s. 6d. per head, while up to 16¼d. per lb. was obtained. Light-weights made to 16¼d. per lb. and sold at from 57s. 6d. to 76s. 6d. each. Medium weight pork was worth to 15½d. per lb. with operators paying from 67s. 6d. to 97s. 6d. per head, while good quality heavy porkers were disposed of at from 87s. 6d. to 104s. 6d. each, and realised to 14½d. per lb. All suitable store pigs sold particularly well, a strong demand existing during the month.

Values shown in pence per lb.—Based on selling price per head of live animal and estimated dressed weight of carcase.

Date of Sales—1947 ...	2nd Sept.	9th Sept.	16th Sept.	23rd Sept.	30th Sept.
No. Yarded Each Sale ...	1,531	1,304	1,478	1,177	1,717
<i>Estimated prices per lb. for :—</i>					
Porkers 35-50 lb. Extra	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.	d. d.
Light ...	13 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 50-60 " Light ...	13 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 60-70 " Medium...	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 70-80 " Medium...	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 -14 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 80-90 " Heavy ...	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -14	13 -14	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -13 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Intermediates 90-100 lb. ...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -13	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -13 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -13 $\frac{1}{4}$
Baconers 100-110 lb. Light	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 -12 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ -13	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 110-120 " Light	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ -13	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{4}$
" 120-130 " Medium	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ -13	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13
" 130-160 " Heavy	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 -13	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ -13
" 160-180 " Extra					
Heavy	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -12	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -12	12 -13	12 -13
" 180-200 " Extra					
Heavy	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -11 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -12	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ -12	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ -12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 -12 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 200-240 " Extra					
Heavy	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ -10 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ -11	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ -11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Backfatters 250-350 lb. ...	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 -9 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 350 lb. and over	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ -9 $\frac{1}{4}$

G. COLEMAN.