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## **SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**

**May, 1947.**

### **SHEEP.**

#### **Supplies show Considerable Improvement.**

A considerable improvement occurred in the numbers of sheep and lambs available throughout the period, supplies amounting to 275,235, which represented an increase of approximately 85,000 head on the previous month's offerings. Yardings also showed a substantial increase on the total of 211,226, which were auctioned during the corresponding period last year.

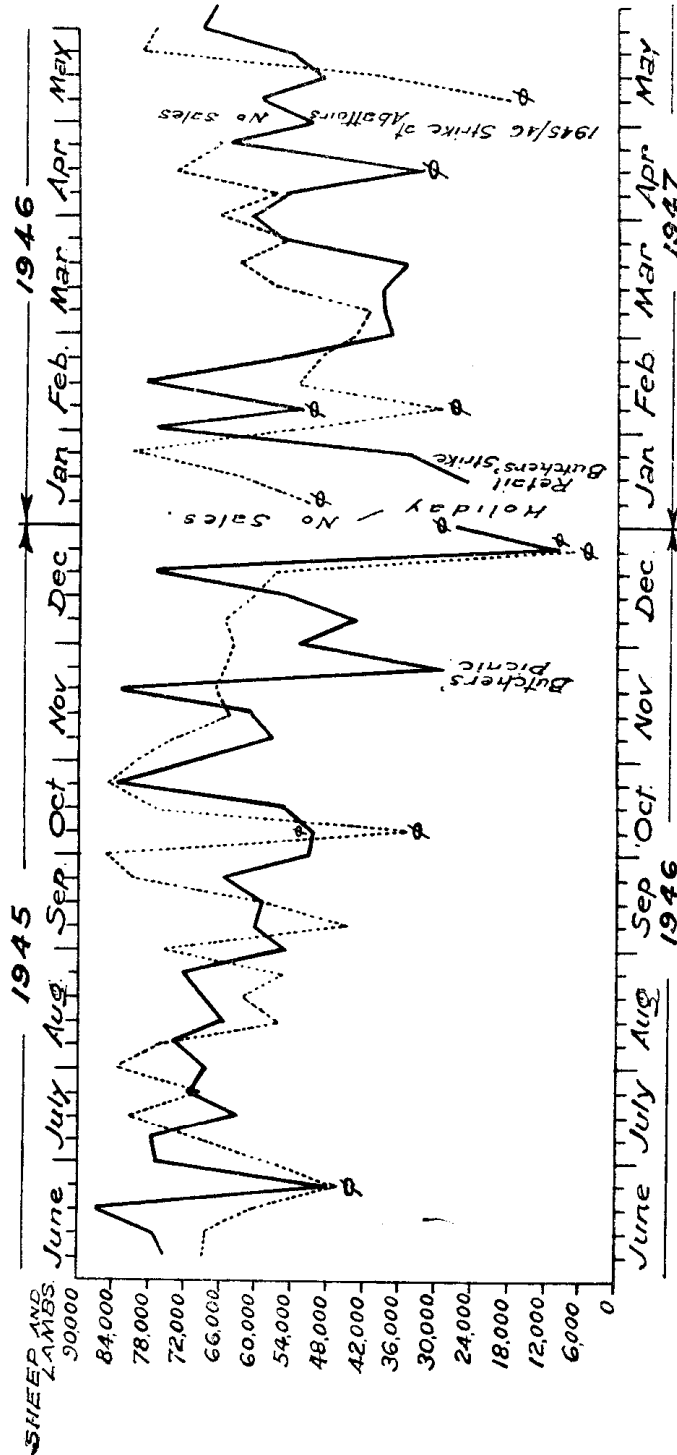
#### **Suitable Trade Sheep Numerous.**

The offering of grown sheep amounted to 143,711, compared with 99,052 head submitted last month, and although the pen-nings of good to prime heavy grades were comparatively light, on occasions, some very attractive lots were included. For the most part, however, the wethers and ewes yarded were suitable light trade descriptions.

#### **Mutton Values Irregular.**

Values of mutton displayed some irregularity throughout. The opening auctions were marked by a decline in rates for most classes of sheep, but at the following sales a much stronger demand prevailed, and prices mostly showed an advance of from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per head. A firm market generally was evident until about the middle of the month when a further improvement in realisations, ranging from 1s. to 2s. per head occurred. Later, however, prices did not hold, and rates mostly were 1s. to 2s. per head lower. The shortage of wethers at times towards the end of the period created an improved demand for ewes at higher rates, but wethers, however, generally were firm, prices showing little material change. On a per head basis, some drafts of prime heavy wethers carrying exceptionally good skins, reached the highest levels for many years, selling to 65s. 11d. while other consignments made from 61s. to 65s. each. Prices ranging from 50s. to 57s. per head were also often obtained but rates for good light to heavy sheep chiefly ranged from 32s. to 48s. per head. Heavy wethers and light descriptions made to 8d. per lb., but, for the most part, heavy mutton was worth from 5¾d. to 7¾d. per lb., and light from 6d. to 7¾d. per lb., the average value comparing very favourably with that of the previous month. Odd consignments of prime heavy ewes were disposed of at 50s. per head while several lots made from 40s. to 47s. per head. Good useful trade ewes, however, usually realised from 30s. to 42s. per head. Good heavy ewe mutton made from 5d. to 6¼d. per lb. and light from 5d. to 6½d. per lb., rates being on a par with the previous month's average.

# COMPARISON OF WEEKLY YARDINGS AT HOME BUSH SALEYARDS



Drawn: *[Signature]* 1945/46 shown thus: - - - - -  
 Checked: *[Signature]* 18/6/47. 1946/47

NOTE: - One sale day only (Public Holiday) marked thus: - φ -

**Improved Showing of Lambs.**

Lambs were in much heavier supply, the total of 131,524 head available, representing an increase of approximately 40,000 over the number yarded during April. Quality for the most part ranged from very fair to good, and although the offering of prime light grades was only light, medium to good useful trade lambs were well supplied. Some very attractive drafts of heavy lambs were yarded while generally the showing of good quality heavy sorts was very satisfactory.

**Most Lambs Cheaper.**

A keen inquiry prevailed on most occasions for all good quality lambs but when compared with the previous month, values in most instances were lower. At early sales, prices showed a downward trend but later in the period the market advanced, rates being from 2s. to 3s. per head higher. Prices remained fairly stable until about mid-May, when a further improvement of from 1s. to 2s. per head occurred. At subsequent sales realisations were lower by from 1s. to 2s. per head but, from then on to the closing auctions, values did not vary to any marked extent, the cost of lamb being from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. per lb. higher than that prevailing at the commencement of the month. Although up to  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. and  $12\frac{1}{4}$ d. was secured for heavy and light lambs respectively during April, heavy lambs made to  $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. and light to  $11\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. in May. Mostly, however, heavy lambs were disposed of at from  $8\frac{3}{4}$ d. to  $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. while good light grades were worth from 10d. to  $11\frac{1}{2}$  per lb. At times prime heavy lambs made to 57s. per head with quite a few sales effected at from 50s. to 55s. each. The bulk of the sales of good quality light to heavy lambs were made at from 34s. to 50s. each, with other grades at from 22s. to 38s. per head.

Hoggets were comparatively scarce and met with a good inquiry, but were generally cheaper. Some lots made to 56s. each and while at times some extra heavy lots were obtained at  $7\frac{3}{4}$  per lb., generally good trade to heavy lines were worth from  $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 9d. per lb., values being steadier throughout than other classes of sheep and lambs.

G. COLEMAN.

**CATTLE.****Increased Supplies.**

The number of cattle available showed a substantial increase on the previous month, 18,524 head being auctioned during the nine sales. This compares with a total of 15,406 head for the corresponding period of last year. Pennings in the store section continued to be relatively large, 3,936 head being disposed of through this channel.

During the first half of the month, quality generally was rather poor, fair trade stock comprising a large proportion of the offering. Some improvement, however, was noticed at later sales, particularly on the last two Thursdays in May when stock of good trade quality was well in evidence, and prime drafts, although still comparatively scarce, were more numerous.

Grown stock was fairly scarce throughout, although more plentiful during the last few sales of the month.

### **Heavy Bullocks Scarce.**

The proportion of bullocks available showed considerable variation, but generally it was rather light. Light and medium weight lines of fair to good trade standard comprised the bulk of the offering at most sales, although towards the close of May, good quality drafts were much more in evidence. Consignments of heavy lots were very limited.

Opening sales showed no material alteration when compared with the closing quotations of the previous month. Values generally were firm for the greater part of the period, but towards the end of May a slightly easier tendency became evident, and closing auctions were at the rate of 55s. to 62s. per 100 lb. for light and medium weight bullocks.

### **Steers in Good Supply.**

Although steers were well represented at most auctions, good quality drafts were scarce in the early part of the month, but were more numerous in later yardings.

Rates at opening were slightly in excess of those ruling at the end of April. Values of prime stock showed little alteration at most sales, although a somewhat easier tendency was noticeable at the end of the month, closing quotations being 55s. to 62s. per 100 lb.

### **Heavier Supplies of Cows.**

Cows were available in greater numbers than of late, although light and medium weight lots of only fair trade standard were very much in evidence during the first part of May. The quality of the offering improved for the balance of the month, good quality sorts of mostly medium weight being present in greater proportions. However, prime drafts were scarce and heavy lines were available mostly in odd lots.

A firm market ruled at opening sales, rates being 48s. to 52s. for heavy cows and 44s. to 52s. per 100 lb. for light descriptions. The improvement in the quality of the yarding was accompanied by a firmer market, and rates at the end of May were 49s. to 53s. per 100 lb. for heavy grades and 49s. to 55s. for light cows.

### **Improved Showing of Heifers.**

Although heifers were fairly lightly supplied early in May, pennings showed a considerable improvement during the latter part of the month when good trade sorts of light and medium weights were well represented.

Rates at the opening sale were generally firm at 47s. to 60s. per 100 lb. A weaker market prevailed at the next auction, but values subsequently improved a little and then remained firm for the balance of the month, 50s. to 57s. per 100 lb. being realised at closing auctions.

**Heavy Vealers Scarce.**

Moderate supplies of light and medium weight lines were offered during the first half of the month, but increased numbers of improved quality lots were yarded in the latter portion. Prime drafts were comparatively scarce at all auctions, while heavy animals were available in odd lots only.

An easier market ruled at opening, quotations being 56s. to 64s. per 100 lb. However, as quality improved the demand became stronger, and values advanced to 60s. to 69s. Prices remained at this level for most of the period, although at closing a somewhat easier tendency reduced the rate to 60s. to 68s. per 100 lb.

D. McGREGOR.

**PIGS.****Pennings show a Decline.**

The aggregate pennings for the period showed a decline of approximately 900 head when compared with the previous month's supplies, a total of 5,762 head being available of which 2,952 were received by rail. Arrivals by road transport comprised the balance of the yardings. Figures for the corresponding period last year indicated that 5,988 pigs were submitted.

**Lower Rates for Bacon.**

Baconers were well represented, fairly large numbers of good trade medium to heavy weight grades being available with moderate supplies of good quality light descriptions also included. Several particularly attractive drafts of extra heavy baconers were submitted. The market throughout was somewhat irregular and prices did not reach the high levels of last month, while the average cost of bacon was lower. At the opening sales a generally easier tendency prevailed, although values of prime grades did not alter appreciably. Rates for light to heavy weight pigs mostly were firm at the following auctions but extra heavy descriptions sold at lower levels. Later in the period and at the closing sales most classes of baconers showed some improvement in realisations, particularly the medium to heavy weight grades. Light weight baconers sold from £4 9s. 6d. per head and mostly were worth from 10¼d. to 11½d. per lb., although up to 13¾d. per lb. was obtained in April. Medium weight baconers cost from 10½d. to 11¾d. per lb. or approximately ¼d. to 1½d. per lb. below the prices ruling last month. Although heavy bacon realised up to 12¾d. per lb. during April, operators obtained their requirements of this class of pig throughout May at from 10½d. to 12d. per lb. Extra heavy grades estimated to dress from 200 lb. to 240 lb. made from 9¼d. to 10¾d. per lb., while on a per head basis, sales were effected at up to £10 1s. 6d. per head.

**Rates for Backfatters mostly Firm.**

Supplies of backfatters were fairly well maintained and while good trade light to medium weight descriptions comprised a substantial proportion of the offerings, the pennings of good to prime heavy grades were for the most part relatively light. Fair numbers of boars also were included. Values of backfatters were well maintained and at times prime descriptions were a little dearer. The demand for boars, however, was limited and many lines proved difficult to sell, values in most instances showing a very sharp decline. Pigs which were estimated to weigh 250 lb. to 350 lb. dressed, were worth from  $7\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $9\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., while the heavy class, estimated to exceed 350 lb. dressed, made from  $6\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Some prime heavy grades were sold at £15 3s. 6d. per head.

**Pork Values Fluctuate.**

Porkers were in fairly heavy supply, although good quality extra light and light descriptions were scarce. Good trade medium to heavy weight grades comprised a substantial proportion of those submitted. Values fluctuated over the period and generally were below those of the previous month, although at the final sale held in May, prices for practically all classes improved. Extra light porkers when available made from  $11\frac{1}{4}$ d. to  $14\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., while light weight grades were disposed of at 12d. to 14d. per lb. and sold to 69s. 6d. per head. Medium weight porkers realised to 89s. 6d. each and cost from  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 14d. per lb., while good heavy grades made from  $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. and up to 98s. 6d. per head. Good quality store pigs met with a ready inquiry and values did not vary materially over the period.

G. COLEMAN.

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