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Another significant recent development has been the expansion of oil-crushing industries in oilseeds-exporting countries. Argentine and India have increased their crushing industries and give preference to their local mills so that the quantity of oilseeds available for foreign countries is reduced and they are forced to buy oil instead of oilseed. The Philippines are also increasing their oil-crushing industry, but it is as yet only able to handle a fraction of the local output of copra. This development must cause concern to importing countries like Australia, as the supply of valuable by-products of oil-crushing such as protein-rich concentrates to Australian agriculture would be reduced if this trend is pushed to its logical conclusion. In view of this danger the decision of oil-crushing firms in Australia to establish linseed cultivation here is a very welcome one, not only from the point of view of ensuring a secure supply of linseed oil but also because it will supply our livestock industries with linseed meal, a very valuable animal feedstuff. Whether oilseed-producing countries such as India, Argentine, the Philippines, etc., will be able to continue their present policy of exporting oil instead of oilseeds when the present shortage of oilseeds is mitigated is doubtful, but there can be little doubt that a determined attempt will be made by these countries to participate in this profitable industry.

F. H. GRUEN.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

November, 1947.

SHEEP.

Supplies Show a Decline.

The offerings of sheep and lambs again were relatively light, the total yardings of the period being 106,069 head, or about 32,500 below the October aggregate. For the corresponding month last year penningings amounted to 227,420 head. Supplies are considerably below average for this time of the year when usually large numbers of suckers are marketed. The very substantial losses sustained during the more recent drought years, and the need for heavy marketings occasioned by feed shortages, have considerably reduced flocks. Pastoralists faced with the necessity for heavy restocking have been compelled, to a certain extent, to rely on natural increases for this purpose. These factors must necessarily reflect in the numbers available for consignment to the fat-stock auctions for some time.

Fewer Sheep Penned.

Grown sheep were in fairly short supply, representing about 38 per cent. of the offerings. The average weekly yardings were approximately 18,600 head, the total for the period being 74,513. A large proportion of the sheep submitted comprised shorn descriptions, skins ranging chiefly from a quarter to half wool lengths.

For the most part medium to good light trade descriptions were in good supply, with moderate numbers of good to prime heavy grades also included. Some very nice quality drafts of prime heavy wethers and ewes were noticed throughout, while at times ewes were more in evidence than wethers.

Values Generally Maintained for Sheep.

Values were fairly well maintained at about the average of those ruling during the previous month for sheep, although some variations occurred. The market opened 1s. to 2s. dearer, but at the following sales the improvement was lost. Values from then on until the close of the month, for the most part, were very firm to a little dearer, although some extra heavy sheep sold at reduced rates. At the final auctions, however, all classes of sheep showed a decline of up to 2s. per head. On occasions the shortage of wethers stimulated demand for all good quality ewes. A consignment of good heavy wethers realised 69s. each, while several sales were effected at prices ranging from 58s. to 65s. per head. Generally, however, good quality light to heavy wethers were disposed of at from 32s. to 55s., while the cost of the mutton reached to 8d. per lb., equivalent to the best rate of the previous month. Operators bid freely for all good quality ewes, some lines realising to 52s., with quite a few sales effected at from 45s. to 50s. each. Generally, however, good light to heavy grades made from 25s. to 40s. per head. Heavy ewe mutton was worth up to 6¼d. and light 6½d. per lb., compared with 6¾d. and 7d. respectively in October. On the accompanying schedule the trend in prices on each sale day are indicated.

Lamb Numbers Decline.

The number of lambs and suckers available showed a decline, total pennings amounting to 121,556 head, compared with 133,962 during last month. Suckers again comprised the bulk of the supply and although medium to good light trade sorts were numerous, good heavy descriptions generally made a satisfactory showing. At times prime heavy suckers were offered which were of very good shape and conformation. Only odd lots of old lambs were noticed, while hoggets, for the most part, were scarce.

Rates Advance.

A strong demand prevailed for all good quality lambs and suckers and the average cost per pound showed some improvement on that of last month. Some fluctuation in prices was evident throughout the period, the market opening 1s. to 2s. dearer, but at the following auctions most classes were up to 2s. cheaper. Rates remained fairly steady until about the middle of the month, when a decline of up to 1s. per head occurred. Towards the end of the period, however, prices recovered, but did not quite reach the level prevailing at the opening auctions. Some of the best quality heavy grades offering made to 50s. per head, but generally values ranged from 33s. to 46s. each according to weight and skin value. The cost per pound of the heavy carcase, weighing 36 lb. and over, ranged from 8¼d. to 10¼d. compared with 8d. to 10d. per lb. during last month. Lighter weights, which cost from

9½d. to 11½d. per lb. in October, were also a little dearer, the carcass costing from 9¾d. to 11½d., although some affected by seed made 9¾d. per lb. Hoggets continued to be scarce and met with a strong inquiry, selling to 8½d. per lb., being ¼d. per lb. higher than the best price obtained during the previous month. Rates, however, generally ranged from 7d. to 8¼d. per lb. Prices obtained for skins continued to be high and were reflected in realisations per head for the live animal.

Reference to the accompanying schedule will serve as a guide to price trends over the period.

Prices shown in pence per lb.:—Based on selling price per head, of live animal (skin values excluded) and estimated dressed weight of carcass.

Date of Sale.	No. Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1947.								
3 Nov. ...	18,116	8½—10½	10½—11½	8—8½	6½—8	7½—8	5½—6	5½—6½
6 " ...	31,822	8½—10	9½—11	7½—8½	6—7½	6½—7½	5½—5½	5½—6
10 " ...	20,618	8½—10½	10½—11	7½—8½	6—7½	6½—8	5½—6	5½—6½
13 " ...	25,536	8½—10	9½—11	7½—8½	6½—7½	7—8	5½—6½	6—6½
17 " ...	24,913	8½—10	9½—11	7½—8½	5½—7½	7—8	5½—6	6—6½
20 " ...	29,943	8½—9½	9½—10½	7½—8	5½—7½	6½—7½	5½—6½	5½—6½
24 " ...	17,504	8½—10	9½—10½	7½—8	5½—7½	6½—7½	5½—6	5½—6½
27 " ...	27,617	8½—10	9½—11	7—8	5½—7	6½—7½	5—5½	5½—6½

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

November, 1947.

Smaller Numbers Offered.

During the month, 16,833 head were sold, including 1,546 auctioned in the store section. The total supplies were 1,059 less than those submitted in October.

Fair to good trade descriptions were mostly in evidence throughout the yardings which generally were well up to the standard of the October offerings. However, a decrease was noted in the number of prime heavyweight stock available.

Increased prices which ruled on the opening sale day for all classes of cattle were not fully maintained at subsequent auctions, although at the close of operations values for heavier types were slightly higher than the final October rates. See accompanying schedule.

Heavy Bullocks Fairly Scarce.

Light and medium weight bullocks of fair to good quality were well supplied, but prime and weighty lines were not plentiful, the number on offer at times being insufficient for buyers' requirements.

A dearer market on the initial sale day saw a sharp rise in values which advanced by as much as 20s. to 30s. per head. Although these increased, prices were not sustained throughout the month; final quotations were, nevertheless, higher than those at the end of October. At the conclusion of trading, prices per 100 lb. for heavy bullocks were from 51s. to 56s., and for light and medium weights from 54s. to 58s.

Good Offerings of Steers.

Steers were particularly well represented both in numbers and quality. Numerous prime and weighty lots were in evidence and yardings maintained a satisfactory standard throughout the month.

The higher prices of the opening sale day were not fully maintained and the final quotations of 54s. to 59s. per 100 lb. were slightly less than those of the concluding October sales.

More Cows Available.

Increased supplies of cows were available and the offerings represented a wide range of quality from plain and useful trade sorts to occasional lines of prime description. However, fair to good trade light and medium weights comprised the bulk of the pennings.

Values fluctuated during the month, top prices at times reaching as high as 54s. and 55s. per 100 lb. In a weaker market at the close of trading, however, rates were down to a level approximately the same as at the end of October. Closing quotations for November were from 45s. to 51s. and 46s. to 52s. per 100 lb. for heavy and light cows respectively.

Prime Heifers in Short Supply.

Fair to good quality lightweights formed the bulk of the moderate number of heifers offered, prime and heavy lots being in rather short supply.

As with all other classes of cattle, prices were higher on the opening sale day, but values generally were a little below those of October and at closing had declined to 52s. to 58s. per 100 lb.

Few Heavy Vealers.

Light and medium weight vealers of fair to good trade standard were well represented throughout the month, although relatively few prime and weighty drafts were noticed.

The peak prices of 70s. to 76s. per 100 lb. which were recorded at the initial day's trading were not maintained, and at the completion of business for the month, values ranged from 64s. to 72s. per 100 lb.

CATTLE.

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

Date.	Number Yarded.	Bullocks.			Steers.	Cows.		Heifers.	Vealers.
		Heavy Over 775 lb.	Medium 675-775 lb.	Light 575-675 lb.	All Weights.	Heavy Over 575 lb.	Light 400-575 lb.	All Weights.	All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.
1947.									
30 Oct.	1,835	48-55	49-56	50-57	55-61	45-50	47-53	54-61	68-75
3 Nov.	1,359	50-58	53-61	54-61	57-64	46-54	48-55	57-64	70-76
6 " ...	2,217	50-55	55-61	55-60	56-62	46-52	47-53	54-60	65-74
10 " ...	2,027	50-55	55-61	55-61	56-61	46-52	47-53	56-62	65-74
13 " ...	2,424	50-55	55-61	55-61	57-62	46-53	47-54	55-61	66-74
17 " ...	1,939	50-58	56-61	56-61	57-62	47-54	48-54	56-61	66-74
20 " ...	2,660	53-58	55-61	56-61	56-61	47-54	48-54	55-61	67-74
24 " ...	1,891	52-57	54-59	54-59	55-60	47-52	47-53	54-59	66-72
27 " ...	2,316	51-56	54-58	54-58	54-59	45-51	46-52	52-58	64-72

P. F. SEXTON.

PIGS.

November, 1947.

Slight Increase in Numbers.

The number of pigs yarded showed a slight increase on the previous month's total, 5,958 head, including 2,700 received by rail, being submitted for sale. This represented an increase of 230 on October's aggregate, but was substantially lower than the offering of 7,629 head during the corresponding period last year.

Keen Inquiry for Baconers.

Baconers were well supplied during the period under review and mostly were of good trade to prime quality. Heavy to extra heavy weight descriptions comprised a good proportion of the yardings, while fair numbers of light to medium weights were also included. A keen inquiry generally was evident and although a strong market prevailed early, an easier to cheaper tendency was noticed later in the period, most classes showing a decline of from 5s. to 10s. per head. Values for the most part, however, were higher than those ruling during the previous month. Lightweight baconers realised from 12¼d. to 13¾d. per lb., while medium weights also brought up to 13¾d. per lb. Heavy and extra heavy weights, estimated to dress up to 180 lb., made up to 13½d., and those weighing up to 200 lb. 13d., while in the 200 to 240 lb. class up to 12¾d. per lb. was obtained. A general decline of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. in prices of all weights of bacon pigs occurred during the latter half of the period. On a per head basis up to £11 18s. 6d. was realised.

Record Price for Backfatters.

The numbers of backfatters offered generally were only moderate, although light to medium weights of fair to good trade quality were well represented. Some drafts of prime heavyweights were

offered early in the month, but this class of pig was generally in fairly short supply for the greater part of the month. Inquiry throughout was good, and values reached high levels, a record price of £21 1s. 0d. per head being realised early in the period, which was the highest recorded for many years. Values were firm early, heavy grades over 350 lb. realising up to 9½d., and lighter weights up to 350 lb., 10d. per lb., but rates subsequently eased to 9d. and 9½d. per lb. respectively at the close of the period. Boars were fairly well in evidence and suitable lines met with a good demand.

Pork Prices Irregular.

Porkers, for the most part, were fairly well supplied, but on occasions offerings were relatively light. All grades of weight and quality were available throughout the period and average prices generally were higher than those obtaining during the previous month. At opening sales, rates showed some improvement, but values subsequently eased for most classes with the exception of extra lightweights, which remained firm throughout. At the early auctions, good trade extra light and lightweights brought up to 16¼d., medium up to 15¾d. and heavy 14¾d. per lb., but, at closing, lower rates were evident. Extra light porkers made to 65s. 6d., light to 80s. 6d., medium to 101s. 6d. and heavyweight grades to 110s. 6d. per head.

Suitable store pigs were in comparatively short supply, and generally met with a good inquiry. Rates for the most part were fairly well maintained at the previous month's levels, but at times some increase was apparent.

The accompanying schedule indicates the trend in prices for all-weight grades of pigs over the period.

Prices shown in pence per lb.: based on selling price per head of live animal and estimated dressed weight of carcass.

Date of Sale, 1947	...	...	...	4th Nov.	11th Nov.	18th Nov.	25th Nov.
Number yarded each sale	...	...	...	1,524	1,610	1,352	1,472
Estimated prices per lb. for—				d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—Extra light	...	35-50 lb.	14½ to 16½	14½ to 16½	14½ to 16½	14½ to 16½	14½ to 16½
Light	...	50-60 lb.	14 to 16½	14 to 15½	14 to 15½	14 to 15½	14 to 15½
Medium	...	60-70 lb.	13½ to 15½	14 to 15½	14 to 15	14 to 15	14 to 15
Medium	...	70-80 lb.	13½ to 15½	13½ to 15½	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½
Heavy	...	80-90 lb.	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½	13½ to 14½
Intermediates	...	90-100 lb.	13½ to 14	13½ to 13½	13 to 13½	13 to 13½	13 to 13½
Baconers—Light	...	100-110 lb.	13 to 13½	12½ to 13½	12½ to 13½	12½ to 13½	12½ to 13½
Light	...	110-120 lb.	13 to 13½	12½ to 13½	12½ to 12½	12½ to 12½	12½ to 12½
Medium	...	120-130 lb.	13 to 13½	12½ to 13½	12½ to 12½	12½ to 12½	12½ to 12½
Heavy	...	130-160 lb.	12½ to 13½	12½ to 13½	12 to 12½	12 to 12½	12 to 12½
Extra Heavy	...	160-180 lb.	12½ to 13½	12½ to 13½	12 to 12½	12 to 12½	12 to 12½
"	"	180-200 lb.	12½ to 13	12½ to 13	12 to 12½	12 to 12½	12 to 12½
"	"	200-240 lb.	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½	11½ to 12½	11 to 12	11 to 12
Backfatters	...	250-350 lb.	8½ to 10	8½ to 9½	8 to 9½	8 to 9½	8 to 9½
"	...	350 lb. and over	8 to 9½	8 to 9½	7½ to 9	8 to 9	8 to 9

G. COLEMAN AND T. R. PERRY.