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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

September, 1948.

SHEEP.

Increased Numbers Yarded.

Supplies available during the period showed a considerable increase, the overall yardings amounting to 250,521 head, suckers comprising more than half of the total offering. During the month nine (9) sales were conducted representing an average of 27,836 head of sheep and lambs yarded on each sale day.

Better Representation of Sheep.

A much better representation of grown sheep was submitted when pennings comprised 64,547 head, an increase of approximately 10,000 on last month's offerings. Ewes were in much better supply, shorn descriptions being numerous, while wethers for the most part were also well in evidence. Good, useful light trade descriptions comprised a substantial proportion of those available. The heavy classes of sheep were, however, not so numerous but some very nice quality drafts of prime heavy full-woolled wethers and ewes were included.

Mutton Cheaper.

With a general improvement in supplies, the prevailing strong demand was not fully sustained and values ruled lower for practically all classes with the exception of some drafts of outstanding quality woolly wethers, which sold at record high levels. Over the period values fluctuated considerably. At the opening sales values advanced up to 2s. per head, but later this was followed by a decline of from 2s. to 3s. per head. Prices, however, remained fairly steady until the third week, when a further advance of up to 3s. per head occurred. Rates, however, did not alter to any appreciable extent until the final auctions, although at times a very firm tendency prevailed for prime drafts. At the sales conducted on the 29th September, demand eased and realisations generally were from 1s. to 3s. per head lower for all classes. On one occasion a draft of prime heavy full-woolled wethers sold at 120s. per head, the highest price recorded for sheep for a considerable number of years. Realisations for other good quality consignments ranged from 38s. to 108s. each. The cost of the carcase ranged from 5¾d. to 9d. for heavy and from 6d. to 9d. per lb. for light wethers over the period. Rates during the previous month being 7¼d. to 10d. and 7¾d. to 10½d. for heavy and light mutton respectively. Ewes made up to 70s. per head, but chiefly were sold at prices ranging from 27s. to 67s. each. Heavy ewes made from 5d. to 7½d. and light 5¾d. to 8½d. per lb., the cost last month being from 6½d. to 8½d. for heavy carcasses and from 7d. to 9d. for light. On the accompanying schedule rates ruling on each sale day are indicated.

Increased Pennings of Lambs.

The pennings of lambs showed a substantial increase when a total of 56,912 lambs and hoggets and 129,062 suckers was offered, an increase of approximately 44,000 on the August aggregate. Suckers available ranged from medium to good light trade sorts to good to prime heavy, some exceptionally good quality drafts being included. Old lambs and hoggets on offer comprised chiefly good to prime heavy grades, only occasional lots of light-weights being included.

Rates Decline for All Classes.

With a much better supply of lambs and suckers, competition was not so strong, and lower rates ruled for all classes. Values were somewhat irregular throughout and reached their highest level for the month at the opening sales when suckers sold at very firm rates and heavy lambs were up to 2s. dearer. Later, however, a decline of from 2s. to 3s. per head occurred, but this fall was followed by a sharp rise of from 1s. to 4s. about the middle of the month. At the sales conducted on the 20th September, realisations were again higher, the improvement ranging from 2s. to 5s. per head, but by the end of the period this increase was practically lost. Occasional sales of prime heavy merino lambs were effected at 84s. per head and some prime heavy crossbred lambs made 74s. Generally, however, rates ranged from 35s. to 64s. each, according to weight. Heavy lambs and suckers over the period were worth from 8d. to 12¼d. per lb., the cost during August being from 8¼d. to 13¼d. Light descriptions which made from 11½d. to 16d. per lb. during the previous month were obtained at from 9d. to 13¼d. in the period reviewed. Some very nice consignments of hoggets were yarded, but chiefly they were in relatively short supply and when offering, cost from 7¾d. to 9¼d. per lb. These prices would show a decline of from ½d. to 1½d. per lb. on those ruling in August.

The accompanying schedule shows the variations in the cost of the carcase over the period.

Sheep and Lambs—Good to Prime Quality.

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

Date of Sale.	No. Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1948.		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
2 September ...	25,467	8½-12½	11½-13½	8½-9½	7½-9	8-9	6½-7½	7½-8½
6 September ...	21,220	8½-12	11½-12½	8½-9½	7½-8½	8-9	6½-7½	7½-8½
9 September ...	36,278	8-9½	9-11½	7½-8½	5½-8½	7½-8½	5½-6½	5½-7
13 September ...	21,599	8-9½	9-10½	7½-8½	5½-8	7½-8½	5½-6½	5½-7
16 September ...	32,847	8½-10½	9½-11½	7½-8½	5½-7½	7-7½	5½-6½	5½-7
20 September ...	17,060	8½-11½	11½-13	8½-9	6½-8½	7½-8½	5½-6½	6½-7½
23 September ...	30,409	8½-11½	11½-13	8½-9½	6½-8½	7½-8½	5½-6½	6½-7½
27 September ...	23,908	8½-11½	11½-13	8½-9	6½-8½	7½-8½	5½-6½	6½-7½
30 September ...	41,733	8½-10½	9½-11½	8½-8½	6-7½	6-8	5-5½	5½-6½

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Increased Numbers Available.

Sales were conducted on nine days during September—one day more than August. The total number auctioned was 19,398, including 1,658 sold in the store section. This exceeded by 4,434 the total for August.

Quality, although slightly improved, did not vary considerably from that of the preceding month, fair to good trade consignments predominating. Prime heavy stock were in fairly short supply.

Improvement in Values.

The market followed a similar trend to that for August in that values fell during the middle of the month and, in the main, picked up at the close. Average values were slightly higher than those prevailing for August for most classes of stock.

Bullocks Continue in Good Supply.

Bullocks were generally well represented at most sales and the majority were fair to good quality medium and heavy weights. Values for all grades rose slightly on August figures, the range per 100 lb. being 57s. to 67s. for heavy; 59s. to 72s. for medium and light as compared with 54s. to 66s., 57s. to 70s. and 58s. to 70s., respectively.

Few Prime Steers.

Steers comprised a large proportion of the yardings and, although good trade lines predominated, there were also a few prime drafts available. Values showed little material alteration when compared with August rates, but generally the market was slightly firmer.

Heavy Cows Relatively Scarce.

The offering of cows during the month was only moderate and prime heavy description were, for the most part, relatively scarce. Light and medium weights of fair to good trade quality, however, comprised the bulk of those available, but towards the close of the month there was a better representation of heavyweight cow beef. Average prices ruling for both heavy and light grades were about 10s. per head higher than those prevailing during the previous month.

Decreased Numbers of Heifers.

Heifers were in short supply during the period, those submitted comprising chiefly light weights of good to prime quality. Generally realisations were slightly lower than those ruling in August.

Vealers Well Represented.

Vealers were in good supply during the month and mostly light medium weights of good trade quality were on offer. Prime heavy drafts were comparatively scarce. Demand continued to be strong and, while values generally were maintained at the previous month's high level, on occasions some improvement in rates occurred.

On the accompanying schedule, the trend in prices per 100 lb. of the various classes of cattle are indicated.

Cattle—September, 1948.

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

Date.	No. 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.
1948.		s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
2 Sept.	2,175	60-65	64-69	64-69	68-75	57-64	58-64	68-74	80-88
9 Sept.	1,632	60-65	63-69	64-70	67-74	57-64	58-64	67-74	8-88
9 Sept.	2,985	57-62	60-66	60-66	64-71	52-60	52-60	66-72	78-84
13 Sept.	1,859	57-62	60-66	60-66	64-71	52-60	52-60	65-71	77-84
16 Sept.	2,690	57-61	59-64	59-64	62-68	50-58	50-58	63-8	75-82
20 Sept.	1,760	57-62	62-68	62-68	65-72	53-60	53-61	71	79-86
23 Sept.	2,199	57-63	63-68	63-69	65-72	53-60	54-61	66-71	78-85
27 Sept.	1,362	63-67	67-72	67-72	69-75	56-63	58-64	68-73	80-85
30 Sept.	2,736	62-66	66-72	66-72	68-75	56-64	57-64	69-74	80-86

W. C. HALL.

PIGS.**Numbers Yarded Decline.**

Throughout the period, offerings on most sale days were relatively light, but a considerable improvement was evident in the numbers yarded at the final auctions. Overall supplies for the period amounted to 7,078 head, of which 4,019 were received by rail; road deliveries from Metropolitan and near country piggeries accounting for the balance.

Baconers in Good Supply.

The supply of baconers generally was good and the quality for most part was satisfactory. All grades of weight were included, with good trade light to heavy descriptions forming a good proportion of those on offer. Moderate numbers of extra heavy lots were also available, several prime well-finished drafts being noticed. Although at the opening sales inquiry was not so strong and an easier to cheaper market ruled, following auctions were marked by a much stronger tone and realisations were at a higher level. During the second and third weeks rates for all classes advanced, the increase ranging from 5s. to 25s. per head, while at the final sales a further improvement of up to 10s. per head was evident, the market closing particularly strong. Prime extra heavy grades made up to £12 15s. 6d. per head, other weights selling from £6 3s. 6d. each. The highest price obtained during August was £11 17s. 6d. Light-weight baconers were worth from 14½d. to 16¾d., medium 13¾d. to 16¼d., heavy 13d. to 16¼d. and extra heavy 11d. to 16d. per lb. Particulars of the ruling rates on each sale day are given on the attached schedule.

Rates for Backfatters Higher.

Fair supplies of backfatters were available, all classes being included, with good trade light to medium weights forming the bulk of those on offer. Some prime extra heavy sorts were also noticed. Demand was strong for the most part but an easier to cheaper

market ruled at early sales. Later a much better inquiry prevailed and values showed a substantial increase of from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per lb. Prime heavy sorts sold at prices ranging to £19 2s. 6d. per head, others being disposed of at from £8 19s. 6d. each. Pigs estimated to dress from 250 to 350 lb. made from $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $11\frac{1}{2}$ d. and those 350 lb. and over 8d. to $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. The best price obtained during August was $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.. Realisations on each sale day are given on the accompanying schedule.

High Rates for Porkers.

All classes of porkers met with a strong inquiry and the cost of the carcase was higher than in the previous month. Although good quality extra light weights were in comparatively short supply other grades of weight were fairly well represented over the period. Good trade lines were numerous, with quite a few lots of prime heavy descriptions also included. Values were irregular at the opening sales and generally easier to cheaper. At the following auctions, however, rates advanced, an improvement of from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. being evident. This was followed by a further increase of from 5s. to 10s. per head. Closing sales, however, ruled mostly firm, but some lots offered showed an easier tendency. Extra light porkers sold to 80s. 6d., light 92s. 6d., medium 128s. 6d., and heavy 139s. 6d. per head. The highest price obtained during August being 125s. 6d. each. On a per pound basis, extra light, light and medium weights made to $19\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., with heavy sorts making to $18\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., representing an increase of from $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $21\frac{1}{4}$ d. over the best prices obtained last month. Store pigs, when offering, were generally dearer. The attached schedule gives the range of prices per lb. of the various classes of porkers during September.

Pigs—Good to Prime Quality.

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

Date of Sale, 1948.	7th Sept.	14th Sept.	21st Sept.	28th Sept.
No. yarded each Sale	1,770	1,477	1,526	2,305
Estimated price per lb. for :—	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—				
Extra Light, 35-50 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -19 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 -19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Light, 50-60 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17	15 -18	16 -19 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Medium, 60-70 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -18	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -19 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Medium, 70-80 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -18	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -19 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 -19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Heavy, 80-90 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Intermediates, 90-100 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17
Baconers—				
Light, 100-110 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Light, 110-120 lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 -16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Medium, 120-130 lb.	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Heavy, 130-160 lb.	13 -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Extra Heavy, 160-180 lb.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16
Extra Heavy, 180-200 lb.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Extra Heavy, 200-240 lb.	11 -12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 -14	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Backfatters, 250-350 lb.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9-11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -11 $\frac{1}{2}$
350 lb. and over	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8-10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -10 $\frac{1}{2}$

G. COLEMAN.