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

**August, 1948.**

### **SHEEP.**

#### **Numbers Available Increase.**

The overall penning showed an increase when supplies amounted to 196,622 head compared with the previous month's aggregate of 174,517. A feature of the yarding was a marked improvement in the numbers of new season's suckers available. The continuity of sales was affected by a drovers' strike during the month.

#### **Fewer Sheep Submitted.**

Although the total supplies for the period were higher, fewer grown sheep were submitted than in July, consignments amounting to 54,781 head, which represented a decline of approximately 10,000 head. The falling-off in truckings could be attributed partly to the shearing and also to the fact of lambing. As a result ewes in particular were in comparatively short supply, wethers making a much better showing. Medium to good useful light trade sheep comprised a fairly large proportion of those on offer, but generally good to prime heavy grades were somewhat scarce. However, some very nice drafts of prime heavy wethers were included.

#### **Lower Rates for Sheep.**

The best rates of the previous month were not fully sustained and lower values ruled for sheep. Prices were variable and reached their lowest level at the final auctions. During the early part of the month the market ruled firm to very firm, but later a decline of from 2s. to 3s. per head occurred. Following on the dispute amongst drovers and cancellation of truckings for the sale to be held on the 23rd August, 1948, prices advanced, the increase ranging from 2s. to 4s. per head. Later in the period demand eased and all classes of sheep were cheaper by from 3s. to 5s. per head. Some prime, heavy, big-framed, full-woolled wethers made to 107s. per head, other good quality lots selling from 50s. each. Over the month heavy wethers were worth from 7¼d. to 10d. and light 7¾d. to 10½d. per lb. During July corresponding costs were 8¼d. to 11¾d. and 8½d. to 12½d. per lb. for heavy and light grades respectively. Ewes in prime condition and carrying very heavy skins, were disposed of at 86s. per head, other good trade lines making from 40s. each. The cost of the carcase was appreciably lower and while heavy grades made to 10¾d. and light 11d. per lb. in July, the cost of heavy ewe mutton during August ranged from 6½d. to 8½d. and light 7d. to 9d. per lb. The trend in prices at each sale conducted is shown in the accompanying schedule.

#### **Improved Showing of Lambs.**

A much improved showing of lambs was available, both in regard to numbers and quality. Over the period 141,841 head were offered, representing an increase of at least 30,000 head on the

July total. Suckers were much more in evidence and contributed largely to the improvement in the supply position. The quality generally was very fair to good and mostly well suited to trade needs, while some exceptionally nice quality drafts of prime heavy summer lambs and suckers were included. Some lots, however, were too heavy for the trade and met with a restricted demand.

### Further Decline in Lamb Prices.

Owing to the substantial increase in numbers rates for all classes of lambs showed a decline, which was more pronounced on the heavy-weight drafts than on the good light trade descriptions. Little appreciable change in values occurred in the early part of the month for light lambs and suckers, although at times some improvement was noticeable. Heavy lambs, however, were from 1s. to 2s. cheaper. At the auctions held on the 12th August most classes showed a fall of from 2s. to 3s. per head and occasionally more for suckers. This was followed by a further fall of from 2s. to 3s. per head. Factors which contributed to an increase in mutton values at this stage were also responsible for an advance in lamb prices, the increase being from 1s. to 4s. per head, the most improvement being on the heavy summer lamb. At the following sales a decline of up to 2s. per head occurred while at the closing auctions a further fall of from 1s. to 2s. per head was evident. Some drafts of prime heavy lambs made 70s. per head, other good quality light to heavy descriptions selling at from 37s. to 66s. each. During July heavy lambs and suckers made from 8¾d. to 15½d. and light 12½d. to 17½d. per lb. but, over the period reviewed, the cost of the carcasses ranged from 8¼d. to 13¼d. and 11½d. to 16d. for heavy and light respectively. Hoggets were comparatively scarce but when offering chiefly were good to prime heavy-weights. Values were lower than in the previous month and ranged from 8¼d. to 10¾d. per lb., which was from ½d. to 2d. per lb. below the cost in July.

### 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 carcass.*

Date of Sale.	No. Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1948.								
2 Aug. ...	18,730	9½-13	13½-15½	8½-10½	8½-9½	8½-10½	7-8½	7½-9
5 Aug. ...	20,595	9½-13	13½-15	9-10½	8½-10	8½-10½	7½-8½	7½-9
9 Aug. ...	20,610	8½-13	13½-16	8½-10½	8½-10	8½-10½	7-8½	7½-9
12 Aug. ...	27,677	8½-13	12-15½	8½-10	8-9½	8½-10	7-8	7½-8½
16 Aug. ...	23,227	8½-13	12-14	8½-9½	8-9½	8½-9½	7-8	7½-8½
19 Aug. ...								
20 Aug. ...	31,387	9½-13½	12½-14½	9½-10½	8½-10	8½-10½	7½-8½	7½-9
23 Aug. ...		Sales cancelled owing to dispute amongst drovers.						
26 Aug. ...	27,740	8½-12½	11½-13½	8½-9½	8-9½	8½-9½	6½-8	7½-8½
30 Aug. ...	26,656	8½-12½	11½-13½	8½-9	7½-8½	7½-9	6½-7½	7-8

G. COLEMAN,

## **CATTLE.**

### **Fewer Numbers Available.**

Sales were conducted on eight days during August—one day less than July. The total number auctioned was 14,964 head (including 1,533 sold in store section) and was less by approximately 1,600 head than the previous month's offering. Not included in the above figures were some 700 head which were sold by private treaty on the 19th of the month, following the disruption of the sales set down for that day by a drovers' strike. The balance of the day's offering was disposed of by auction conducted on the 20th, while the sales scheduled for the following Monday were abandoned.

With the exception of one or two yardings, quality generally was not equal to that of the previous month, a larger proportion of plain to fair trade descriptions being noticed. A falling-off was also apparent in the number of prime drafts available.

### **Further Improvement in Values.**

The market for most classes had shown a weaker tendency up to the 19th of the month when the strike by drovers interfered with normal supplies. Subsequently values increased and the prices recorded on the final sale day were the highest for some considerable time. Overall average values for all classes of stock were higher for August than July, prices for prime lightweight beef showing the most appreciable increase.

### **Bullocks continue in Good Supply.**

Bullocks were well represented in most of the offerings and the majority were good quality lots of medium and heavy grades of weight. Based on a comparison of daily quotes for both months it was estimated that bullocks were dearer in August than in July, but only slightly so. The rise was attributed to the exceptionally high prices realised on the closing sale day when quotations for prime bullocks reached as high as 70s. per 100 lb.

### **Fewer Prime Steers.**

Steers comprised a substantial proportion of the offering, and although good trade lines predominated, a falling-off was evident in the number of prime drafts available. At no time did rates for the best steer beef fall below 70s. per 100 lb. and on the final sale day prime lightweight descriptions realised up to 75s. per 100 lb. It was estimated from a survey of daily quotations that good quality steers averaged 15s. per head more during August than in July, but values for plainer descriptions showed little change.

### **Heavy Cows Not Plentiful.**

Cows were not always well supplied and only limited numbers of prime weighty lines were included. Light and medium weights of chiefly fair trade quality comprised the majority of the yardings. Rates for cows declined sharply at early sales, but subsequently improved to a level approximating the best of the previous month. On the dear market at closing heavy and light descriptions realised

respectively to 63s. and 64s. per 100 lb. A comparison of average price realisations for July and August disclosed little quotable change in values for lightweight cows, but heavy lots were dearer by up to 15s. per head in August.

### Increased Numbers of Heifers.

Although heifers continued in fairly short supply there was an improved representation compared with the July supplies. Good quality lightweights made up the bulk of those available. The trend in values for this class of beef was similar to that for steers. The best quality lots always realised in the vicinity of 70s. per 100 lb. and, on the closing market, quotations reached as high as 75s. per 100 lb. Heifers averaged approximately 10s. per head more in August than in July.

### Strong Demand for Vealers.

Vealers were well supplied until towards the end of the month when there was an appreciable decline in the numbers submitted. Fair to good trade light and medium weights comprised the bulk of the pennings, prime heavy sorts being rather scarce. Demand for vealers was consistently strong and prices, which at no time fell below the level of the opening sale day, improved considerably during the month to reach the top quotations of 80s. to 87s. per 100 lb. recorded at closing. Based on a comparison of daily price quotations for both months, it was estimated that vealers were dearer by 10s. per head in August than during July.

### 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.
1948.									
29 July	1,986	60-64	61-67	63-68	65-73	54-60	54-61	66-72	75-82
1 Aug.	2,101	59-63	60-66	62-67	63-71	52-58	52-58	65-70	74-80
5 Aug.	2,232	58-63	58-67	61-68	62-71	51-58	50-58	65-70	74-81
9 Aug.	1,596	59-64	60-67	61-68	63-71	52-59	53-59	65-70	74-81
12 Aug.	2,204	56-62	57-65	58-65	63-70	52-59	53-59	65-70	74-81
16 Aug.	1,818	57-62	58-66	59-66	63-71	52-60	54-60	65-71	75-84
20 Aug.	1,130	to 63	to 67	to 67	66-74	53-60	55-60	68-73	77-85
26 Aug.	2,093	56-63	61-67	62-67	61-73	53-60	54-60	65-72	77-85
30 Aug.	1,790	60-66	64-70	64-70	68-75	56-63	58-64	68-75	80-87

P. F. SEXTON.

### PIGS.

#### Considerable Improvement in Supplies.

Over the period reviewed supplies showed a considerable improvement when yardings amounted to 9,064 head, an increase of 1,600 head on the previous month's aggregate. Pigs from country centres arriving by rail numbered 4,734 head. For the corresponding month last year a total of 7,889 head was penned.

**Strong Demand for Baconers.**

For the most part baconers were well represented and while suitable trade light to heavy grades were numerous, extra heavy descriptions also made a good showing, some very attractive drafts being on offer. A strong demand prevailed for practically all classes, although on occasions overfat consignments did not meet with so keen an enquiry. Rates reached very high levels, prices obtained being the best for a considerable number of years. At the beginning of the period most classes sold at advanced rates and generally were from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per head dearer, the exception being extra heavy overfat sorts, which were a little cheaper. At the next sale held a further advance of up to 10s. per head occurred followed by another increase during the third week of from 5s. to 10s. per head. Values subsequently remained firm to very firm, but at the closing auctions an easier tendency prevailed for most classes, the exception being extra heavy weights, which generally were firm.

Over the period prices ranged from £5 18s. 6d. to £11 17s. 6d. per head, the highest paid during July being £10 13s. 6d. Light-weight baconers were worth up to 16¼d., medium 16d., heavy 15d., and extra heavy 14¼d. per lb. On the accompanying schedule variations in the carcase cost of the respective weight grades on each sale day are shown.

**Sharp Rise in Backfatter Prices.**

Only moderate numbers of backfatters were available generally. Quality was somewhat variable and ranged from fair to good trade and prime, all weights being included. Although inquiry at the opening sale was not too keen and values were lower, a much stronger demand prevailed for the rest of the month and realisations were at higher levels.

During the second week rates advanced by up to 20s. per head, which was followed in the third week by a further increase of from 15s. to 40s. per head and more in places. Later sales were effected at firm to very firm rates and the market closed strong. Prime heavy backfatters made up to £18 16s. 0d. per head, while the cost of the carcase reached 10½d. per lb. During July the carcase was worth up to 9½d. Realisations on a per lb. basis on each sale day are shown on the accompanying schedule.

**Higher Rates for Porkers.**

Although early in the month good quality porkers were somewhat scarce, supplies later showed considerable improvement. Quality was variable, but good trade descriptions, which mostly were medium to heavy grades, were in fairly good supply. Realisations for the most part were higher than those prevailing last month and enquiry was strong, the opening auctions being marked by an advance of from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per head. At the following sale values ruled very firm, while during the third week all classes again were up to 5s. per head dearer. Prices remained firm to very firm during the fourth week, but an easier tendency prevailed at the end of the period. Extra light weight porkers sold at from 40s. 6d. per head while, on the other hand, prime heavy grades made up to £6 5s. 6d. each. The best price