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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**November, 1948.****SHEEP.****Improvement in Supplies.**

Some improvement in the numbers auctioned occurred, the total number available for the period being 240,302 head or about 3,000 more than for the previous month. Due to the fact, however, that nine sale days were held during November compared with seven in October, the average sold on each sale day was lower at 26,700 head, the previous month's average being 33,920. For the corresponding period in 1947 offerings totalled 196,000.

Better Representation of Sheep.

Wethers and ewes were in much better supply when overall pennings amounted to 89,919 head or about 30,500 more than in October. Ewes were more numerous while satisfactory numbers of wethers were included. Quality was somewhat mixed but, for the most part, suitable sheep for the local and export trade were fairly well represented. Sheep off-shears comprised a good proportion of those available and ranged from fair to good trade light descriptions to good to prime heavy grades. Fewer full-woolled sheep were yarded but some attractive drafts were noticed throughout.

Rates for Mutton Lower.

The best rates obtaining for mutton in October did not rule and the average cost of the carcase was lower. Although some variation in values occurred, the market was much steadier than was the case last month. At the early sales prices showed an improvement from 2s. to 3s. per head, while during the second week a further advance of up to 1s. occurred. Later, although the markets were irregular, values did not show any marked variation, realisations at closing closely approximating those prevailing earlier in the period. Some drafts of prime heavy big-framed wethers, carrying good skins, sold at 72s. per head, other good quality lots making from 27s. to 63s. each with plainer descriptions at relatively lower levels. The cost of good heavy wether mutton ranged from 5¼d. to 7d. per lb. and light was worth from 5½d. to 7¼d. During October rates were from 4¾d. to 7¾d. and 5¾d. to 8¼d. for heavy and light carcasses respectively. For the most part good quality ewes were disposed of at from 20s. to 52s. per head, a few outstanding lots making from 55s. to 63s. each. Heavy ewe mutton made from 3¾d. to 4¾d. and light 4¼d. to 5¼d. per lb. Last month operators paid from 4d. to 6¼d. for heavy ewes and 4¼d. to 7d. per lb. for lightweight carcasses. The accompanying schedule shows the range of prices per lb. for mutton at each sale conducted over the period.

Fewer Suckers Submitted.

A noticeable decline in the numbers of suckers yarded occurred but more lambs and hoggets were penned, figures for the period being 100,722 and 49,661 head, respectively. Comparable figures for October were 41,458 lambs and hoggets and 136,652 suckers.

Quality, although generally very fair, was not equal to that of recent months, more plain to medium descriptions being included. Fair numbers of good useful light trade sorts were available but prime light drafts were comparatively scarce. Good to prime heavy grades, however, were fairly well represented, some particularly nice quality heavy descriptions being noticed.

Lamb Costs More.

Owing to the falling off in quality a keener inquiry ruled for all good to prime grades and values were at a higher level than in the preceding month, the carcass on an average costing more. At the commencement of the period the market showed a sharp increase of from 2s. to 3s. per head on the rates ruling at the close of the previous period. This was followed in the second week by a further advance of up to 3s. per head. Prices then showed some variation and at times were easier. However, at the beginning of the third week, under stronger competition, a further improvement of up to 3s. per head occurred, but at following auctions prices were not fully sustained and closing values were lower. Some of the best quality heavy lambs offering made from 50s. to 55s. per head, other good to prime light to heavy sorts selling at from 31s. to 50s. each according to weight and skin value. The cost of the heavy lamb carcass ranged from 8d. to 10¾d. and light 9¼d. to 12d. per lb. During October the cost was from 7½d. to 10½d. and 8½d. to 11½d. per lb. for heavy and light grades respectively. Over the period some very nice quality lines of hoggets were offered and were in good demand, the carcass costing from 7½d. to 9¼d. per lb. or about ½d. per lb. above the ruling rate in October. The schedule which follows gives details of the cost of the carcass on each sale day of the respective classes of lambs, as well as hoggets over the month.

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.		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
1 Nov. ...	32,603	8 -10	9½-10¾	7½-8½	5¾-7	6 -7	4½-4¾	4½-5½
4 Nov. ...	31,434	8½-10	9½-10¾	7½-8½	5¾-7	5¾-7	4 -4½	4½-5½
8 Nov. ...	24,143	8 -9½	9½-10¾	7½-8	5¾-7	5¾-7	4 -4½	4½-5
11 Nov. ...	22,726	8½-10½	10-11½	7½-8½	5¾-7	6 -7½	4½-4¾	4½-5½
15 Nov. ...	22,314	8½-10½	10-11½	7½-8½	5¾-7	6 -7½	4 -4½	4½-5½
18 Nov. ...	9,634	8½-10½	10-11½	7½-8½	5¾-7	6 -7½	4 -4½	4½-5½
22 Nov. ...	31,265	9½-10¾	10-11½	8 -9½	5¾-6¾	6 -7½	4 -4½	4½-5½
25 Nov. ...	38,164	9½-10¾	9½-12	7½-9½	5¾-7	5¾-7½	4 -4½	4½-5
29 Nov. ...	28,019	9 -10½	9½-11½	7½-9	5¾-7	5¾-7½	3½-4½	4½-5

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Increased Numbers Available.

Cattle offerings for the month aggregated 23,077 head and were appreciably larger than those of October, which totalled 16,267. Allowance must be made for the fact that during October only seven sales were held; nevertheless, for the purposes of comparison, the daily average for November was 2,564, or 240 head more than that for October.

Bullocks in Satisfactory Supply.

Bullocks were generally well supplied during the month and, while good trade light and medium weights made up the bulk of the offerings, occasional pennings of prime medium and heavy-weight sorts were noticed on most sale days. On one occasion several yards of prime heavy-weight descriptions from the Warren district were offered and averaged approximately £34 per head. The weight of the carcasses was reported to average 1,250 lb.

Competition was only mainly fair and values, except those of odd prime lots, notably those referred to above, were on an average from 20s. to 40s. per head lower during November.

Steers Plentiful Again.

As in the previous month, the number of steers submitted was very satisfactory. Although possibly a little below the October standard, quality was mostly good, while a fair proportion was of prime grade. Most grades of weight were available over the month but light and medium weights predominated.

Demand was good, although values receded by approximately 15s. per head on October figures.

Scarcity of Cows.

Numbers of cows submitted continued to decline while quality showed no improvement. Offerings comprised chiefly light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard. Despite the light pennings, request was weak and values for most classes declined by 15s. to 30s. per head, and more in some instances.

Few Heifers.

Consignments of heifers also consisted chiefly of light and medium weight sorts of fair to good trade standard, with numbers offering showing a decrease on the previous month's figures. Demand was not strong and average rates per head were approximately 15s. below October levels.

Prime Vealers Scarce.

Prime vealers were relatively scarce, although the representation of other grades was satisfactory. Demand was active but, following the trend for most other classes of cattle, values fell on an average by approximately 20s. to 30s. per head.

It will be noted that values of cattle generally show a reduction on the previous month's figures. Quality in the main was little inferior to that ruling for October, and possibly the chief consideration in the recession of values was the considerably increased numbers available. Attached is a schedule setting out the estimated values for each class at each sale held during the month.

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.									
1 Nov.	2,210	58-62	64-68	64-69	63-71	46-54	48-56	56-65	67-76
4 Nov.	3,154	60-64	61-67	64-68	63-70	48-57	54-56	54-64	64-76
8 Nov.	2,088	53-64	61-67	64-67	63-70	48-54	52-54	54-64	64-71
11 Nov.	2,330	61-66	63-67	64-67	65-73	54-57	52-58	61-67	60-74
15 Nov.	2,775	59-63	61-64	62-64	65-71	52-55	50-55	60-66	68-74
18 Nov.	1,840	59-62	61-64	62-64	65-72	50-53	48-53	60-66	68-74
22 Nov.	2,770	57-61	59-64	60-65	65-70*	48-53	48-54	62-66	69-76†
25 Nov.	3,116	56-60	55-62	58-63	60-67	45-52	50-54	52-61	60-72
29 Nov.	2,794	56-62	57-63	57-63	59-66	47-54	50-54	58-63	62-72

* Odd 72. † Odd 80.

W. C. HALL.

PIGS.

Supplies Increase Appreciably.

The supplies available over the period showed an appreciable increase, totalling 9,794 head, of which 4,405 were received by rail. The largest number offered at any one sale day was 2,149 head, the smallest daily total being 1,754. For the corresponding period last year, 5,958 pigs were auctioned.

All Classes of Baconers Cheaper.

For the most part baconers were well represented and while all grades of weight were available, good trade light to heavy descriptions predominated. Some very attractive consignments of extra heavy grades estimated to dress over 160 lb. were also included. The rates which prevailed during the previous month were not fully sustained and all classes of bacon pigs sold at reduced rates. At the first sale conducted during the period, although at times values were firm, rates generally were from 5s. to 10s. per head lower. Later sales conducted were marked by a still weaker demand and prices showed a further decline, reaching their lowest level at the concluding auctions. The greatest fall was apparent on the extra heavy class of pigs. Lightweight baconers sold at from £5 11s. 6d. per head while the highest price obtained for extra heavy pigs was £10 17s. 6d. each. Last month prime extra heavy sorts were disposed of at up to £12 15s. 6d. each. During October light baconers were worth 16¼d. per lb., medium 16¼d. and heavy to extra heavy grades 16d. per lb. Over the period

reviewed light baconers cost up to $14\frac{3}{4}$ d. medium and heavy $13\frac{3}{4}$ d. and extra heavy $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. The cost of the carcase in their respective weight grades is shown on the accompanying schedule.

Fair Representation of Backfatters.

Backfatters were fairly well represented throughout the month and while good to prime light to heavy grades made a very fair showing, quite a few plain aged cull sows and boars were also noticed. At the commencement of the period a much stronger demand prevailed for all good quality lots and realisations were at a higher level. Inquiry was not so good at the following sale and prices eased. About mid-November, however, rates showed some recovery but by the end of the period values again declined, request being dull and buyers generally operating not so freely as in the early part of the month. A few prime heavy-weight lots made up to £17 18s. 6d. each compared with £19 6s. in October. Pigs, which were estimated to dress within the 250 to 350 lb. range, cost from $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 11d. per lb. during October, but in November realisations ranged from $6\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. Heavier weights, estimated to dress 350 lb. and over, made from $8\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in the previous month, but in the period reviewed they were obtained at from $5\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $10\frac{3}{4}$ d. The accompanying schedule shows the rates ruling on each sale day over the period.

Good Inquiry for Porkers.

Supplies of porkers were well maintained over the period and quality for the most part was good. All weights were available but medium to heavy descriptions comprised a substantial proportion of those on offer. Values generally showed some recovery over the period, all lots submitted meeting with a good inquiry, but the extreme rates of the the previous month were not obtained. At the opening sales a decline of from 5s. to 10s. per head occurred but later, realisations improved and prices at closing reached their highest level during the month. On a per head basis good to prime heavy porkers made to 119s. 6d. each, while extra light weights were disposed of at from 38s. 6d. per head. The best price obtained for porkers in October was 134s. 6d. each. During the month the cost of the extra light weight carcase ranged from $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 19d., light $14\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $18\frac{1}{4}$ d., medium $14\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $18\frac{1}{4}$ d. and heavy $13\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $17\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. In October extra light, light and medium weights were worth up to $19\frac{1}{4}$ d. and heavy 19d. per lb. The schedule which follows shows the ruling rates for the respective weight grades of porkers at each sale conducted.

Fair supplies of suitable store pigs were yarded, for which a good demand existed at very firm to slightly higher prices.

Pigs.

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.	2nd Nov.	9th Nov.	16th Nov.	23rd Nov.	30th Nov.
Number yarded each Sale	1,877	2,011	1,754	2,149	2,003
Estimated prices per lb. for—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—					
35-50 lb. Extra Light	13½-17½	13½-17½	14½-18	13½-19	14½-19
50-60 lb. Light	14½-16½	14½-16½	15 -17½	15 -18½	15½-18½
60-70 lb. Medium	14½-16½	14½-16½	14½-17½	14½-18	15 -18½
70-80 lb. Medium	14½-16½	14½-16½	14½-17½	14½-17½	15 -18
80-90 lb. Heavy	13½-16	13½-16	14½-16½	14½-17	15 -17½
Intermediates—					
90-100 lb....	12½-15½	12½-15	14½-15½	14½-15½	14½-15½
Baconers—					
100-110 lb. Light	12½-14½	12½-14½	12 -14½	12½-14½	12½-14½
110-120 lb. Light	12½-14½	12½-14½	12 -13½	12½-13	12½-13
120-130 lb. Medium	12½-13½	12½-13½	11½-13	11½-13	12 -12½
130-160 lb. Heavy	12½-13½	12½-13½	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½
160-180 lb. Extra Heavy	12½-13½	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½	11 -12½
180-200 lb. Extra Heavy	12 -12½	11½-12½	11 -11½	11 -11½	11 -11½
200-240 lb. Extra Heavy	10½-12	10½-11½	10 -10½	9½-10½	9 -10½
Backfatters—					
250-350 lb.	8½-10½	8 - 9½	7½-10	7½- 9½	6½- 8½
350 lb. and over	8½-10½	8 - 9½	7½- 9½	7½- 9½	5½- 8½

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS

November, 1948.

FRUIT.**Choice Apples Limited.**

Only a small proportion of the apples taken out of cold storage were of choice quality, "wasty" lines predominating. Enquiry for sound dessert lines was steady and prices showed little variation from the previous month's rates. Stocks were on offer from New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, South and Western Australia and quotations were as follows:—*New South Wales*: Delicious 10s. to 26s., few to 30s.; Rome Beauty 10s. to 18s., extra choice to 22s.; Granny Smith 10s. to 18s., few to 22s., odd special higher; Democrat 10s. to 18s., few to 20s.; Yates 10s. to 20s. *Tasmanian*: Granny Smith 12s. to 20s.; Democrat 10s. to 12s. *Victorian*: Delicious 14s. to 20s., few 22s.; Jonathan 10s. to 16s., few special higher; Yates 14s. to 22s.; Rome Beauty 12s. to 18s., few 22s. *South Australian*: Jonathan 18s. to 26s.; Statesman 14s. to 20s. *Western Australian*: Granny Smith 20s. to 22s. per bushel case.

Victorian Pears Sell Steadily.

Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Josephine and Winter Nelis pears were on offer during the first half of the month but only Packham's Triumph and Josephine were available throughout November. Choice lines were scarce and sold readily but fruit showing breakdown, which predominated, moved out very slowly.