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**RESEARCH AND MARKETING SERVICE ACT, 1946, U.S.A.**

The following extract from the "Journal of Marketing," January, 1947, published by the American Marketing Association indicates a broadening of the functions of the United States Department of Agriculture in the field of scientific and marketing research. Inquiry of the American Consulate at Sydney reveals that Congress has appropriated \$9,000,000 for the new services.

"The Research and Marketing Service Act of 1946, approved August 14, 1946, commonly known as the Flannagan-Hope Act, increases the authority of the Department of Agriculture to perform scientific, experimental, and marketing research.

Title I broadens the authority under the Bankhead-Jones Act, approved June 29, 1935, by providing for additional research on farm problems, with virtually unlimited scope, and especially on new types of farm problems. It also authorizes research to encourage the discovery, introduction, and breeding of new and useful agricultural crops, plants, and animals, both foreign and native. Particular emphasis is placed on those crops and plants which may be adapted to utilization in chemical and manufacturing industries.

In addition, the Act provides for grants to State agricultural experiment stations for research on State and regional problems and authorizes co-operative research projects on regional and national problems. The main new method authorized is the authority given to the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into contracts with public or private organizations or individuals to achieve results more effectively, at lower cost, or more rapidly.

Agricultural marketing research is given new life by Title II, which is cited as the "Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946." The purposes are to improve marketing methods and facilities, reduce distribution costs, narrow the price spread between producer and consumer, improve dietary and nutritional standards, develop new and wider marketing, and generally, dispose of full farm production usefully, economically, profitably, and in an orderly manner.

The Act authorizes research on a co-operative basis with other branches of the Government, State agencies, trade associations, private organizations, and individuals. Contracts and agreements are authorized as in the case of utilization research, but maximum use is first to be made by existing Federal and State research facilities. Authority is granted to match funds allotted by State Departments of Agriculture, State bureaus and departments of markets, experiment stations, and other State agencies, but duplication or overlapping of research is prohibited.

The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer and consolidate the marketing research service and regulatory activities of the Department to improve the marketing and distribution of agricultural products and develop a sound marketing system.

A national advisory committee is to be established by the Secretary to consult with him, to make recommendations regarding research and service work, and to assist in obtaining the co-operation of producers, farm organizations, industry groups, and governmental bodies. The committee, broadly representative of all farm segments, must meet at least once each year, and an executive committee, once each quarter.

Funds were not appropriated by the 79th Congress, so new research under this legislation cannot begin until there is opportunity for the appropriation of the funds authorized. The Act authorizes the following new amounts for the current fiscal year:—

	\$
Marketing research and service .. .. .	2,500,000
Utilization research .. .. .	3,000,000
Co-operative research with State Experiment Stations and other agencies .. .. .	1,500,000
Payments to State Experiment Stations .. .. .	2,500,000

These authorizations are doubled for the fiscal year 1948. The term 'agricultural products' is defined to include processed and manufactured products of all commodities raised or produced on farms."

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## SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

July, 1947.

### SHEEP.

#### **Market Lightly Supplied.**

The market was lightly supplied during the period, yardings amounting to 225,474 head, including 120,577 lambs and suckers. This number represented a decline of 16,000 on the previous month's aggregate and also was substantially below the offering of 279,987 head for the corresponding month last year. A feature of the pennings was the preponderance of lambs over grown sheep, supplies of mutton being influenced by the incidence of shearing in many parts of the State.

#### **Trade Sheep Well Represented.**

The number of sheep available was relatively light, a total of 104,879 head being available, representing a decline of 10,000 head on the June pennings. For the most part medium to good useful light trade wethers and ewes, dressed up to 46 lb., were well represented, and although woolly descriptions comprised a good proportion of the supply, increased numbers of good to prime sheep off shears were noticed. Some very nice quality drafts of heavy sheep (dressing over 46 lb.) were included, but generally the offering of this class of sheep was fairly light.