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

**AUGUST, 1947.**

### **SHEEP.**

#### **Numbers Yarded Decline Appreciably.**

Supplies of sheep and lambs declined appreciably, the total number yarded for the period being 180,246 head, or approximately 45,000 head less than the previous month's aggregate. Pennings for the same month last year amounted to 333,251 head. The falling-off in consignments can be attributed largely to graziers withholding stock for shearing, while rain in some localities prevented the movement of sheep and lambs.

#### **Shorn Sheep More in Evidence.**

Pennings of sheep showed a further falling-off, the relatively small total of 81,710 head being yarded. Increased numbers of shorn sheep were submitted with a corresponding decrease in woolly descriptions. With the progress of shearing operations, it is anticipated that the supply of sheep off shears will increase materially. The quality generally was fairly good, many drafts of shorn sheep being very attractive. Good light trade wethers and ewes, dressing up to 46 lb. of mutton, were well represented throughout, although at times ewes were particularly scarce. Good to prime heavy descriptions (dressing over 46 lb.) were available in moderate numbers. Some consignments were of exceptionally good quality and carried very good skins.

#### **Prices Reach High Levels.**

A strong demand ruled throughout the month, the falling-off in the number yarded stimulating inquiry for all suitable lots and the average cost of mutton showed some increase over that of the previous month. Rates were at times irregular during the first half of the month, but in the third week a sharp rise in values occurred, the increase ranging from 3s. to 5s. per head. The improvement in realisations, however, was not sustained and at the following sales rates declined by from 1s. to 4s. per head, the market remaining fairly steady until the end of the period. A draft of good heavy full-woolled Merino wethers sold at 70s. per head, the highest price obtained for many years, while sales were frequently effected at from 55s. to 65s. per head for good heavy sheep. Other good quality lots sold at from 34s. to 50s. each, plainer grades being obtained at correspondingly lower levels. Heavy wethers made to 8¾d. and light to 9d. per lb. Ewes were disposed of at 56s. per head, with several drafts making from 48s. to 53s. each; generally prices of good trade lines ranged from 34s. to 46s. Good heavy ewes cost up to 7d. and light to 7¼d. per lb. The accompanying schedule indicates the variations in prices of good to prime mutton during the month.

**Fewer Lambs Available.**

Fewer lambs were available, the yardings totalling 98,536 head, or about 22,000 less than the previous month's total. For the most part, however, they were more in evidence on each sale day than grown sheep. Suckers made an improved showing, several prime heavy lots being offered, which promises well for future consignments. Heavy lambs (dressing over 36 lb.) of good to prime quality were well in evidence, some very heavy drafts being included. Good useful light trade descriptions (dressing up to 36 lb.) were also well supplied, but very few prime light sorts, apart from suckers, were penned.

**Rates Improve for Light Lambs.**

Values fluctuated considerably, more particularly for the heavy class of lamb which on an average did not cost so much as in the previous month; although rates for light grades were higher. At the opening sales a decline of from 1s. to 3s. per head was evident and while values of light sorts were maintained at the following sales, heavy grades again were 1s. to 2s. cheaper. About the middle of the month all classes of lambs sold at advanced rates and mostly were 1s. to 2s. dearer, which was followed towards the end of the period by a sharp increase of from 3s. to 5s. per head. Prices, however, did not hold and a fall of from 1s. to 4s. per head occurred at the second-last sale held during the month, while at the closing auctions, some lines of heavy lambs were again a little cheaper. Good heavy lambs at times made 11¼d. per lb., while up to 59s. per head was obtained. Good light lambs and suckers realised up to 13d. per lb. A comprehensive range of prices on a per lb. basis, for good to prime lambs, is shown on the accompanying schedule.

Hoggets were in fairly short supply and although rates were variable, a good inquiry prevailed. Some prime weighty sorts sold to 56s. per head, the cost of the carcase reaching its highest level of 9¼d. per lb. towards the end of the period.

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

Date of Sale.		Number Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.		
			Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.	
1947.										
4 August...	...	21,370	8½-10	10½-11½	8½-8¾	6¾-8	7-8	5¾-6½	5¾-6½	
7 " "	...	32,434	8-10	10½-11½	8-8½	6½-7¾	6½-8	5½-6	5½-6½	
11 " "	...	16,369	7½-10	10-11½	7½-8½	6½-7½	6½-7½	5½-6	5½-6½	
14 " "	...	24,193	8-10½	10½-12	8-8½	6½-7½	6½-8	5½-6	5½-6½	
18 " "	...	19,344	8-10½	10½-12	8-8½	6½-7¾	6½-7¾	5½-6	5½-6½	
21 " "	...	16,393	9-11½	11½-13	8½-9½	7½-9	7½-9	6½-7	6½-7	
25 " "	...	20,832	8½-11	11-12½	8½-9	7½-8½	7½-8½	6½-6¾	6½-7	
28 " "	...	29,311	8½-11	11-12½	8½-9	7½-8½	7½-8½	6½-7	6½-7½	

G. COLEMAN.

## **CATTLE.**

### **Supplies Decrease Slightly.**

During the month eight sales were held and an average of 2,121 cattle were submitted on each day, compared with 2,141 for each July yarding. The grand total of 16,982 head included 2,231 auctioned in the store section.

Grown stock continued to make a good showing and, on most sale days, comprised the bulk of the yarding. The standard of quality was maintained, good trade sorts being well in evidence.

Demand was good for all classes of cattle and rates generally showed an increase, particularly in the latter part of the trading period. Prices ruling during the month are shown in the attached schedule.

### **Heavy Bullocks Scarce.**

The number of bullocks on offer varied from day to day but generally it reached only moderate proportions. Light and medium-weight lines of fair to good trade standard comprised the bulk of the yarding and only occasional lots of prime were received. Very few bullocks of heavy description were on offer.

The market opened firm and subsequent sales saw values advance, progressively, except for one slight decline. The peak level was reached at 64s. to 65s. per 100 lb. for light and medium drafts. Quality of the heavy-weight lots was reflected in the fluctuating prices which ranged from 50s. to 60s. over the period.

### **Steers in Good Supply.**

Steers were well in evidence on each sale day and consisted generally of fair to good light and medium weights. A small proportion of prime and heavy sorts was also received.

Opening sales had a slightly easier tendency at 55s. to 62s., but the market firmed and then rose sharply to 59s. to 66s. Subsequent rates were irregular but the market was very firm at closing.

### **Mixed Yarding of Cows.**

Supplies of cows were generally moderate and all grades of weight and quality were submitted. Prime sorts, however, were available in odd drafts only.

Rates for the first half of the month were unaltered and very firm, with heavy weights realising to 53s. and light weights to 55s. Prices then advanced but eased during the closing sales, when heavy descriptions were quoted at 50s. to 54s. and light 51s. to 56s.

**Heifer Values Improve.**

Heifers were fairly well supplied throughout the month but quality was variable. Only odd heavy drafts were submitted and the bulk of the offerings comprised chiefly medium weights.

Heifers followed the same price trend as cows, rates being firm and unaltered at 52s. to 58s. for the first half of the month. Values then rose sharply towards closing but on the last sale day had an easier tendency at 54s. to 62s. per 100 lb.

**Vealers Well Supplied.**

Supplies of vealers continued to be well maintained and consisted mainly of light and medium weights of good to prime quality. Very few heavy descriptions were received.

Values showed an increase throughout the month and rose steadily from 60s. to 67s. at opening to 66s. to 75s. on the last sale day.

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

Date.	No. Yarded.	Bullocks.			Steers.	Cows.		Heifers.	Vealers
		Heavy. Over 775 lb.	Medium. 675-775 lb.	Light. 575-675 lb.		Heavy. Over 575 lb.	Light. 400-575 lb.		
1947.									
31 July ...	2,045	.....	51-58	53-60	53-62	43-53	48-54	50-58	60-66
4 Aug. ...	2,041	.....	51-59	53-60	55-62	48-53	48-54	50-58	60-67
7 " ...	2,933	55-58	53-60	55-62	55-63	45-53	48-54	52-58	60-68
11 " ...	1,866	50-56	53-59	53-60	54-61	48-53	48-54	52-58	60-68
14 " ...	2,457	.....	57-66	57-66	59-66	47-53	50-55	52-60	62-70
18 " ...	1,491	55-60	57-63	60-64	57-64	46-52	48-54	52-59	62-70
21 " ...	2,146	56-59	58-64	60-65	60-66	50-56	50-58	55-61	65-72
25 " ...	1,435	.....	58-64	60-64	59-65	50-56	53-59	58-66	66-74
28 " ...	2,553	.....	60-65	60-65	58-67	50-54	51-56	54-62	66-76

B. G. O'CONNELL.

**PIGS.****Pig Supplies Decline.**

Pigs were in much lighter supply, numbers available during the period being 6,154 head, of which 3,031 were received by rail. This represented a decline of about 1,000 head on last month's total and was substantially below the total of 8,727 head received during August, 1946.

**Baconers Realise Higher Prices.**

The reduced numbers offering resulted in a very keen inquiry and realisations for the most part showed some improvement. The general standard of quality was fairly good and well suited for trade requirements. All weight grades were available, with light to medium weight descriptions more in evidence than the heavy to extra-heavy sorts, although in the latter class some very nicely finished pens were offered. At opening, all classes of baconers were dearer, an increase of up to 15s. per head occurring, the extra heavy class of pig showing the most improvement. Subsequent sales were marked by a very firm to dearer tendency, the market closing strong. Light-weight baconers made to 12 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per lb. and sold from £4 17s. 6d. per head, medium-weight pigs were worth up to 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb, heavy to 12d. and extra-heavy grades estimated to dress between 200 and 240 lb. made to 11d. per lb. and realised to £10 6s. 6d. per head. Price trends over the period are shown on the attached schedule.

**Good Inquiry for Backfatters.**

A good inquiry prevailed for the moderate supplies of backfatters and values generally were higher than those of the previous month. Good to prime heavy grades were in much better supply while good trade light to medium weight grades were also fairly well represented. Demand for choppers also improved. Prices realised were good, prime weighty pigs making to £16 19s. 6d. per head with quite a few sales at from £12 to £15 each. Light-weight pigs, estimated to dress from 250 to 350 lb., were worth up to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and heavier grades, estimated to dress over 350 lb., made to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

**Porkers Fairly Scarce.**

The number of good quality porkers available was relatively light, but at times plainer grades, suitable for store purposes, were numerous. Light to medium-weight grades of good trade standard were, for the most part, fairly well represented with good to prime heavy descriptions on occasions making a satisfactory showing. A strong demand ruled throughout and average realisations were higher than those obtaining during July. Extra light porkers were worth to 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. and prices ranged from 37s. 6d. to 64s. 6d. per head. Good quality light grade made to 78s. 6d. each and up to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., while medium weights, dressing between 60 and 80 lb., realised to 95s. 6d. and cost as much as 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. The heavy class of porker sold to £5 0s. 6d. per head or on a basis of dressed weight, 14d. per lb.

Values of suitable store pigs were fairly well maintained but, at times, due to the increased numbers submitted, rates were not fully sustained.

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

Date of Sale, 1947	...	...	5 August.	12 August.	19 August.	26 August.
Number yarded each Sale	...	...	1,620	1,652	1,682	1,200
Estimated prices per lb. for:—			d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—35-50 lb. Extra light	...	...	12½-15½	12½-15½	13-15½	13-15½
" 50-60 lb. Light	...	...	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-15	13-15½
" 60-70 lb. Medium	...	...	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-14½	13-14½
" 70-80 lb. Medium	...	...	12½-14½	12½-14½	12½-14½	13-14½
" 80-90 lb. Heavy	...	...	12½-14	12½-14	12½-14	13-14
Intermediates—90-100 lb.	...	...	12½-12½	12½-12½	12½-13	12½-13
Baconers—100-110 lb. Light	...	...	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½	11½-12½
" 110-120 lb. Light	...	...	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12½	11½-12½
" 120-130 lb. Medium	...	...	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12½
" 130-160 lb. Heavy	...	...	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12	11½-12
" 160-180 lb. Extra heavy	...	...	11½-11½	11½-11½	11½-11½	11½-12
" 180-200 lb. Extra heavy	...	...	11-11½	11-11½	11-11½	11½-11½
" 200-240 lb. Extra heavy	...	...	9½-11	9½-11	9½-11	9½-11
Backfatters—250-350 lb.	...	...	7½-9½	7½-9½	7½-9½	7½-9½
" 350 lb. and over	...	...	7½-9	7½-9	7½-9½	7½-9½

G. COLEMAN.

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

AUGUST, 1947.

### FRUIT.

#### Dessert Apples Continue to be Relatively Scarce.

Offerings of choice coloured dessert apples were, at all times, insufficient for the requirements of the retail trade and values generally were well maintained at the high levels recorded previously, whilst some varieties were dearer. Most of the supplies were from interstate sources. Towards the close of the period an increase in consignments of New South Wales Delicious, principally from the Orange district, resulted in rates receding slightly and few sales exceeded 35s. per bushel case. Prices showed little fluctuation and representative quotations were as follows:—*New South Wales*: Delicious 17s. to 34s., selected counts 35s. to 38s., few 40s.; Rome Beauty 18s. to 26s., few special 27s. to 32s.; Democrat 14s. to 22s., special to 25s.; Dougherty 15s. to 30s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 24s., choice 25s. to 28s., few 30s., special sizes higher. *Tasmanian*: Crofton 17s. to 26s.; Democrat 13s. to 20s.; Rokewood 16s. to 20s.; Rome Beauty 20s. to 24s.; Sturmer 14s.; Granny Smith 14s. to 20s. *Western Australian*: Yates 20s. to 25s. Granny Smith 16s. to 22s. *Victorian*: Delicious 25s.