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**SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.****OCTOBER, 1948.****SHEEP.****Decline in Numbers Available.**

Numbers offered for sale showed a decline, when compared with the previous month's aggregate, of approximately 13,000 head, yardings totalling 237,443. Comparable figures for the same period in 1947, were 260,035 head. The advent of the Eight Hour Day public holiday reduced selling days to seven, so that the average penningings were 33,920 head, which was higher than the September average figure of 27,836.

**Trade Sheep Numerous.**

The offering of sheep was lighter, totalling 59,333 head, as against 64,457 last month. Wethers were in fairly good supply and ewes continued to make a much better showing than in recent months. Fewer woolly sheep were included, shorn descriptions and short woolled consignments comprising a large proportion of those submitted. Quality showed a fairly wide range, many lots of plain aged cull ewes being noticed. Generally, however, medium to good useful light trade descriptions, dressing up to 46 lb., were well represented with fair supplies of good to prime heavy grades also included. Mostly trade requirements were well provided for.

**Mutton Again Cheaper.**

Values for grown sheep were irregular throughout and the average cost of mutton lower than in the previous month. At the opening sales a sharp decline in values occurred of from 2s. to 5s. per head, and more in some places, part of which could be attributed to a fall in skin prices. At the following sales, however, demand improved and rates advanced, the market fully recovering the fall experienced earlier. Prices did not hold and, at the sale on the 25th October, all classes of sheep were from 2s. to 4s. cheaper, while at the closing auctions values were again lower by up to 3s. per head. Good quality wethers sold to 72s. per head, other good trade lots making from 28s. to 69s. Good heavy wether mutton cost from 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., and light 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb., compared with 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 9d., and 6d. to 9d. for heavy and light mutton, respectively, in September. Ewes were disposed of at up to 59s. per head, but generally realisations ranged from 19s. to 55s. according to weight and skin value. The cost of the carcass ranged from 4d. to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. for heavy, and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 7d. for light. Previous month's rates were 5d. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for heavy ewe mutton, and 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for light. Rates for mutton reached their lowest level at the closing auctions. The accompanying schedule shows the cost of mutton on each sale conducted during October.

**More Suckers Available.**

Numbers of suckers yarded showed an increase on the previous month's aggregate, but fewer old lambs and hoggets were offered. Pennings amounted to 178,110 head, including 136,652 suckers. The quality ranged from fair to good trade to prime, light descriptions comprising a good proportion of those available. Prime heavy grades, however, made a very fair showing and some very attractive drafts were submitted.

**All Lambs Cheaper.**

Although demand continued to be good the best rates of the previous month were not sustained and all classes of lambs and suckers were cheaper. Values were somewhat variable over the period and were lowest at the concluding auctions. At the early sales rates showed a fall of from 3s. to 5s. per head, but later improved and, by the middle of the month, had fully recovered. Towards the end of the period all classes sold at reduced rates, being from 2s. to 4s. cheaper. At the concluding sales rates for good quality suckers were fairly well maintained, but heavy lambs were up to 3s. per head lower. A consignment of prime, heavy lambs made 75s. per head, other good quality lines selling at from 30s. to 60s. each. The cost of the carcase ranged from 7½d. to 10½d., and 8½d. to 11½d. for heavy and light, respectively, compared with 8d. to 12¼d. for heavy and 9d. to 13¼d. for light in September. Rates for hoggets fluctuated and followed the trend in prices of old lambs. At times they were worth up to 9d. per lb., but mostly made from 7d. to 8¾d. per lb. Realisations at each sale held are shown on the accompanying schedule.

**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.								
4 Oct. ...	No Sales held —							
		Public Holiday.						
7 Oct. ...	46,843	7½-9½	8½-10½	7½-8	5½-6½	6-7½	5-5½	5½-6½
11 Oct. ...	32,827	8½-9½	8½-10½	7½-8½	5½-7½	6½-7½	5-5½	5½-6½
14 Oct. ...	34,009	8½-10½	9½-11	8-8½	5½-7½	6½-8	5½-6	5½-6½
18 Oct. ...	25,334	8½-10½	9½-11½	8½-9	6-7½	6½-8	5½-6	5½-6½
21 Oct. ...	28,874	8½-10½	9½-11½	8½-9	6½-7½	6½-8½	5½-6½	5½-7
25 Oct. ...	34,910	8-10	9-10½	7½-8½	5½-7	6-7½	4½-5½	5-6
28 Oct. ...	34,646	7½-10	9-10½	7-8	4½-6	5½-6½	4-4½	4½-5

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**CATTLE.****Increased Numbers Available.**

Owing to the intervention of a public holiday, only seven sales were held during October compared with nine in September. The number of cattle offered totalled 16,267 and was less than the figure for the preceding month. However, the average offering for each sale, 2,324, was higher than that for September.

Quality generally was good, and there was a fair representation of prime lots. Competition was generally keen and rates for bullocks and steers showed some advance. The market, however, was weaker for other lines.

**Bullocks in Good Supply.**

Bullocks continued in good supply and the offerings included all grades of weight and quality. Average values were slightly above level for September.

**Steers Well Represented.**

Steers were well represented at all sales and the offerings included beasts of all grades of weight and quality with light and medium weights of good trade standard predominating. Average values for the month rose slightly.

**Cows Cheaper.**

Only moderate supplies of cows were submitted, but numbers increased towards the close of the month. Prime drafts were scarce and fair to good trade medium weights comprised the bulk of the pennings. Values declined during the second half of the period and average rates were slightly below those for September.

**Heifers in Lighter Supply.**

Decreased numbers of heifers were on offer and consignments included mostly fair to good trade lightweights. The market was firm during early sales but values subsequently declined.

**Prime Vealers Relatively Scarce.**

Vealers were well supplied, but the majority on offer comprised light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard, prime weighty drafts being rather scarce on most days. The average rates of the previous month were not maintained as values declined sharply during the second half of October.

**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.									
4 Oct.	No Sale								
7 Oct.	2,874	59-64	64-68	64-69	66-72	54-62	54-62	66-71	80-87*
11 Oct.	1,652	59-63*	65-70	65-70*	66-73	54-62	54-62	68-72	80-88
14 Oct.	2,365	60-64*	65-71*	66-72*	67-74	55-62	55-63	68-72	80-88*
18 Oct.	2,220	60-64*	64-70	65-71	67-74	53-59	54-60	66-70	74-84*
21 Oct.	2,787	56-60	61-67	64-69	64-73	51-56	52-57	60-68	71-80
25 Oct.	2,248	56-61	62-67	64-69	64-72	49-54	50-55	54-64	65-75
28 O. t.	2,121	58-62	65-69	66-71	67-74	48-56	52-56	60-65	73-82

\* Odd higher.

## PIGS.

### **Fewer Pigs Available.**

Supplies of pigs were not maintained at the previous month's level, although the decline in numbers was not appreciable. During the period a total of 6,938 head was penned, deliveries by rail amounting to 3,771 head, the balance offering being forwarded by road. On two sale days numbers submitted exceeded the 2,000 mark which constituted a fairly heavy supply for this period of the year. Comparable figures of yardings for the same month in 1947 were 6,072 head.

### **Rates for Bacon Irregular and Cheaper.**

Baconers were in fairly good supply and quality for the most part was satisfactory. All classes were on offer with good and prime light to heavy weights comprising a substantial proportion of those available. Extra heavy grades were also forwarded in moderate numbers. Rates were somewhat irregular throughout and, with the exception of those for light and medium weights, were lowest at the closing sales. At the commencement of the month values mostly were easier to cheaper, more particularly for overfat extra heavy grades. Rates were not fully sustained at the next sale held, while during the third week a marked decline was apparent ranging from 10s. to 20s. per head. Prices at the end of the month, however, showed some improvement for light and medium weights, but a further decline in realisations for other classes was evident. On a per head basis, prime extra heavy grades realised to £12 15s. 6d. per head, other weights selling from £5 4s. 6d. Light weight baconers were worth up to 16¾d. per lb., medium 16¼d., heavy and extra heavy grades 16d. per lb. In the accompanying schedule particulars of the ruling rates on each sale day for the respective classes of baconers are shown.

### **Moderate Showing of Backfatters.**

Moderate numbers of backfatters were included in the offerings but quality was somewhat mixed and ranged from plain to good trade with a fair representation of prime. All grades of weight, however, were noticed, some extra heavy lots being offered. Inquiry was good for all suitable consignments, but rates were not maintained at the previous month's level. Early sales were somewhat irregular and showed an easier to cheaper tendency, while during the second week prices were again lower. Demand at the third sale held, however, was not so keen and values fell away appreciably, the market being from 10s. to 20s. cheaper and more in some instances. Up to £19 6s. od. per head was obtained for prime extra heavy grades, other weights selling from £8 12s. 6d. each. Realisations per lb. for pigs estimated to dress from 250-350 lb. ranged from 8¾d. to 11¼d., and those over 350 lb. from 8¾d. to 10½d. per lb. Comparable figures for September were 8¼d. to 11½d., and 8d. to 10¾d. per lb. for up to 350 lb. and over 350 lb., respectively.

**Pork Prices Lower.**

Porkers were well represented throughout the period and quality was for the most part fairly good. All grades of weight were on offer, although medium to heavy weights comprised a substantial proportion of those coming forward for sale. Some very nice drafts of prime heavy descriptions were submitted. Demand continued to be good, but rates fluctuated over the period and the high levels which prevailed at the September auctions were not fully sustained. At the commencement of the period an easier to a little cheaper market prevailed, while rates again showed some decline at the following sales. During the third week a more noticeable falling off in prices occurred, the drop being from 5s. to 10s. per head and more in places. Closing sales, however, were marked by brighter competition and values improved by up to 10s. per head. Realisations on a per head basis ranged from 38s. 6d. for extra lightweights to 134s. 6d. for heavy-weights. Prices obtained during September reached 139s. 6d. each. Extra light porkers, light and medium weights made up to 19¼d. and heavy to 19d. per lb. Particulars in respect of the rates ruling for the respective grades of porkers over the period are shown on the accompanying schedule.

Suitable store pigs were comparatively scarce and, when available, sold at very firm levels. The prevailing high prices ruling for porkers tended to limit the activities of store buyers.

**Pigs.**

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

Date of Sale, 1948.	Oct. 5.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 19.	Oct. 26.
No. yarded each sale ... ..	1,360	2,107	1,449	2,022
Estimated prices per lb. for:—	d.	d.	d.	d.
<b>Porkers—</b>				
35-50 lb. Extra light ... ..	14 -19½	13½-19	13½-17½	13½-18½
50-60 lb. Light ... ..	15½-19½	15 -19	14½-17	15½-18½
60-70 lb. Medium ... ..	15½-19½	15½-19	14½-17	15½-18½
70-80 lb. Medium ... ..	16 -19	15½-19	14½-17	15½-17½
80-90 lb. Heavy ... ..	16 -19	15½-19	13½-16½	15½-17½
<b>Intermediates—</b>				
90-100 lb. ... ..	15½-17	15½-16½	13½-15½	14½-16
<b>Baconers—</b>				
100-110 lb. Light ... ..	15½-16½	14½-16½	12½-14½	12½-15½
110-120 lb. Light ... ..	15 -16½	14½-16½	12½-14½	12½-15
120-130 lb. Medium ... ..	14½-16½	14½-16½	12½-14½	12½-15
130-160 lb. Heavy ... ..	14½-16	14½-15½	12½-14½	12½-14
160-180 lb. Extra Heavy ... ..	14½-16	13½-15½	12½-13½	12½-13½
180-200 lb. Extra Heavy ... ..	14½-15½	13½-14½	12½-13½	12 -12½
200-240 lb. Extra Heavy ... ..	12½-14½	12½-14	11 -13½	11 -12½
<b>Backfatters—</b>				
250-350 lb. ... ..	9 -11½	8½-11	8½-10½	8½-10½
350 lb. and over ... ..	8½-10½	8½-10½	8½-10	8½-10

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