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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**October, 1947.****SHEEP.****Increased Numbers Penned.**

Although the number of sheep and lambs available continued to be light, pennings showed some improvement on the previous month's aggregate. Supplies for the period amounted to 228,662 head, but were below the total of 254,333 for the same month last year. During normal years, offerings at this stage are considerably heavier, due to large arrivals of sucker lambs; in a review of the five-year period 1939 to 1943 average yardings of sheep and lambs for the month of October were about 450,000 head of which suckers constituted from 70 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the total. Heavy losses sustained in more recent years, due to drought conditions and the resultant depletion of flocks which has necessitated heavy restocking, have been contributing factors affecting supplies.

Shorn Sheep Predominate.

A large proportion of the wethers and ewes yarded comprised shorn descriptions, although occasional drafts of full-woolled sheep were also included in the total of 94,700 head. Suitable light trade sorts were numerous, occasional lots of prime 4 and 6-tooth wethers being noticed. Moderate numbers of good to prime heavy grades were submitted, some particularly heavy drafts of cross-bred ewes being received. A general improvement was apparent in the offering of ewes.

Sheep Values Lower.

The market for sheep showed some irregularity during the month, and while rates displayed little material change at the early sales, prices later were lower, a decline of from 2s. to 4s. per head being evident. At the end of the period, however, some recovery was made when values advanced by from 1s. to 2s. per head. Prices did not reach the high levels of September, however, a consignment of good heavy full-woolled wethers made to 78s. per head, while several lots were disposed of at from 70s. to 75s. each. Generally good quality wethers sold from 31s. to 65s. each, according to weight and skin value. Good to prime heavy and light wethers cost up to 8d. per lb. compared with 9d. and 9¼d. per lb. respectively during the previous month. Ewes met with a good demand, but realisations on an average were below those obtained last month. Some good to prime drafts made to 54s. each with quite a few drafts selling at from 47s. to 52s.; others realised from 27s. to 45s. each, plainer grades being lower. Up to 6¾d. and 7d. per lb. was paid for heavy and light ewe mutton respectively, compared with last month's high levels of 7¾d. per lb. for both classes. The accompanying schedule indicates the trend in prices over the period reviewed.

More Suckers Available.

An improvement occurred in the number of suckers penned, the total offering being 133,962 head, representing an increase of 14,638 on last month's aggregate. Very few summer lambs were marketed, while hoggets also were fairly scarce. Quality for the most part was good with good to prime light and heavy descriptions making a particularly good showing. At times plain to medium grades were noticed, but they were by no means numerous.

Lamb Prices Decline.

The average cost of all grades of lambs and suckers showed a decline when compared with those ruling last month. At the opening auctions rates were higher than those obtaining at the close of September, most classes being from 1s. to 2s. dearer. Values, however, then remained fairly steady until the middle of the month when a decline of up to 2s. occurred, although at the following sale the fall was fully recovered. Towards the end of the period rates again advanced by from 1s. to 2s., the market closing strongly. Heavy descriptions made to 10d. and light 11½d. per lb. representing a decline of 1½d. and 1d. per lb. respectively on the highest rate obtained in September. Over the period the cost of heavy grades ranged from 8d. to 10d., and light 9½d. to 11½d. per lb., while up to 58s. per head was realised, other drafts of prime heavy grades making from 48s. to 56s. each. Light suckers sold at from 32s. to 46s. per head for good to prime, with plainer grades at relatively lower levels.

Hoggets were fairly scarce and prices did not fluctuate to any appreciable extent, most classes offering costing from 7½d. to 8¼d. per lb.

On the schedule attached, prices per lb. realised on each sale held are given.

Skin values continued to be good and were reflected in the prices paid during the month.

Values 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 & Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1947.								
October 2	33,287	8½-9½	9½-11½	7½-8½	6½-7½	7-8	5½-6½	6-6½
6	PUBLIC HOLIDAY (NO SALES HELD).							
9	38,825	8½-9½	9½-11½	7½-8½	6½-8	6½-8	5½-6½	5½-6½
13	26,728	8½-9½	9½-11	7½-8½	6½-8	6½-8	5½-6½	5½-7
16	29,929	8½-9½	9½-11	7½-8½	6½-7½	6½-8	5½-6½	5½-6½
20	26,681	8-9½	9½-10½	7½-8	5½-7½	6½-7½	5½-6½	5½-6½
23	22,090	8½-9½	9½-11	7½-8½	5½-7	6½-7½	5½-6	5½-6½
27	23,374	8½-10	10-11½	7½-8½	5½-7	6½-7½	5½-6	5½-6½
30	27,748	8½-10	10½-11½	7½-8½	6-7½	6½-7½	5½-6	5½-6½

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Increased Supplies.

Although sales were not held on 6th October (Six Hour Day Holiday) the number of cattle on offer at Flemington Saleyards during the month showed an increase of 1,326 over the total for the previous month. The yardings for October aggregated 17,892 head, including 1,737 auctioned in the store section. This was also an increase on the total offering of 16,399 for the corresponding month of last year.

Quality of the cattle was on a par with the pennings during September, fair to good trade descriptions comprising the bulk of the yardings. Grown stock were again in the majority and a general increase was observed in the number of heavier class animals available.

Prices Lower.

Following a sharp rise on the opening sale day prices declined appreciably, but on the final day's operations a firm market ruled and values advanced slightly.

The average overall decrease in prices for the month, based on final quotations for September and October, approximated 7s. per 100 lb. The most noticeable decline was in sales of heavy stock, a drop of 12s. to 13s. per 100 lb. being recorded in the prices of heavy and medium bullocks. In lighter animals the fall was not so pronounced, vealers on the lowest market being only 3s. to 4s. per 100 lb. cheaper. In fact, the firm market on the last trading day saw an advance in the price of vealers sufficient to restore prices to the final September level.

Prices ruling during the month are shown on the attached schedule.

Supplies of Bullocks Increase.

Increased numbers of bullocks were offered for sale, medium and heavy weights of good trade standard comprising the majority of the yardings. Opening sales were at appreciably higher rates than the closing quotes for the previous month, but later sales were effected at steadily decreasing prices until the final auctions when a slight rise was apparent.

At the close of trading prices for heavy bullocks per 100 lb. ranged from 48s. to 55s., medium from 49s. to 56s. and light from 50s. to 57s.

Steers Scarce.

A falling off was noticeable in the number of steers yarded, although towards the close of the month they were again in fairly good supply. Most of the offerings were of fair to good quality, but prime and heavy lots were in relatively short supply.

As was the case for other cattle, values for steers were lower, apart from the opening sale, when prices ranged from 66s. to 75s. per 100 lb. At closing, however, prices were from 55s. to 61s., as compared with final quotes for September of 60s. to 68s.

Cows Again in Good Supply.

Although prime lots were scarce, cows were represented in fairly substantial numbers, especially towards the end of the month. Quality generally was fair to good trade with light to medium weights comprising the bulk of the yardings.

There was no appreciable fall in realisations until about the middle of the month, when values became lower. Prices continued to decline up to the end of the period when rates advanced. Final quotations for the month were 45s. to 50s. per 100 lb. for heavy and 47s. to 53s. for light.

Heifers Fairly Scarce.

The relatively small number of heifers yarded comprised mostly good trade light and medium weights, a few prime and heavy drafts being included.

Closing rates were 54s. to 61s. per 100 lb. as compared with the final September quotes of 60s. to 66s. The trend in prices followed that of other stock, highest prices of 60s. to 65s. per 100 lb. being obtained at the opening sales.

Strong Demand for Vealers.

A fair proportion of the vealers auctioned were of prime quality but for the most part the offering was of good trade standard, all weights being available.

The market was consequently strong and the fall in prices was less pronounced than was the case with other classes of stock. At the close of operations the strong demand which prevailed throughout resulted in a rise in values, and the price of 68s. to 75s. which obtained was up to the level of the final quotes for the previous month.

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.
29 Sept. ...	1,651	60-65	62-66	62-68	60-68	50-56	54-59	60-66	68-75
2 Oct. ...	2,572	64-72	64-72	65-75	66-75	56-61	56-63	64-68	71-78
9 " ...	2,794	60-65	62-67	62-67	62-67/6	50-55	53-58	56-62	67-73
13 " ...	1,686	58-63	59-65	58-65	59-65	50-55	52-57	56-62	67-73
16 " ...	2,619	56-62	57-61	57-61	58-63	49-54	50-55	55-61	66-72
20 " ...	1,919	.....	53-59	54-59	54-61	47-52	48-53	55-59	65-71
23 " ...	2,117	46-56	50-56	50-57	52-58	44-49	45-52	53-59	65-71
27 " ...	2,350	46-53	48-54	49-56	54-60	44-49	45-52	53-59	65-71
30 " ...	1,835	48-55	49-56	50-57	55-61	45-50	47-53	54-61	68-75

P. F. SEXTON.

PIGS.

Numbers decline appreciably.

Supplies throughout the period were relatively light, and showed an appreciable decline on the previous months' aggregate. Numbers submitted for sale fell far short of buyers' needs, the penings totalling 5,728 head of which 2,917 head arrived by rail, the balance offered being delivered by road transport, principally from metropolitan and near country piggeries. During the same month last year, 8,130 head was available.

Higher realisations for baconers.

The reduced number offering stimulated demand, and the resulting active competition was responsible for a further improvement in realisations on the high levels which prevailed during September. Throughout the period, baconers comprised a fairly large proportion of the pigs submitted, good trade, light to medium weights being forward in moderate numbers with good to prime heavy to extra heavy grades, for the most part, also well represented. Most classes were firm at early sales with extra heavy sorts dearer. Rates were well maintained until mid-October, when prices for the extra heavy descriptions again advanced. At the closing sales, however, the market was particularly free and values improved for all grades. Some lines of extra heavy, estimated to dress approximately 240 lb. made £11 16s. 6d. per head with prices per lb. in the weight grade 200-240 lb. dressed, ranging from 10½d. to 12½d. per lb. Light weight baconers cost up to 13½d. per lb., while medium and heavy weights sold to 13¼d. per lb. Price ranges per lb. over the period which are indicated on the accompanying schedule were at the highest level recorded for many years.

Strong Inquiry for Backfatters.

Backfatters were penned in moderate numbers, good trade light to medium weights being fairly well in evidence although at times good to prime heavy weights were also well supplied. The market ruled firm for the most part, but at the closing sales, values advanced. Inquiry was strong throughout and the average cost per lb. was higher than in the previous month. Lightweight estimated to dress between 250 lb. and 350 lb. made to 9¾d. per lb. and heavier pigs over 350 lb.—9¼d. per lb. On a per head basis up to £18 13s. 6d. per head was realised.

Rates advance for porkers.

Porkers were fairly well represented for the most part and comprised chiefly good trade medium to heavy descriptions, lightweights being in short supply. Some fluctuation occurred in prices over the period although a keen inquiry prevailed throughout. Values did not vary to any appreciable extent during the first half of October, but during the third week heavy descriptions were a little cheaper. At the closing auctions, however, demand was stronger and prices advanced for most classes offering. Good quality extra light porkers when available sold to 67s. 6d. per head, while up to 16¼d. per lb. was obtained. Prices for lightweights ranged from 62s. 6d. to 80s. 6d. per head and

reached the equivalent of $16\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. Good trade medium weights made to 99s. 6d. each and were worth from $13\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $15\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. and heavy weight porkers cost operators from $12\frac{3}{4}$ d. to $14\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. and were disposed of at up to £5 11s. 6d. per head.

Suitable store pigs were fairly well represented and restockers operated freely, values being maintained at consistently high levels.

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

Date of Sale, 1947.			7th October.	14th October.	21st October.	28th October
Number yarded each Sale			1,500	1,388	1,467	1,473
Estimated Price per lb. for—			d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—Extra Light	... 35/50 lb.	...	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$	— to $16\frac{1}{2}$	— to $16\frac{1}{2}$	— to $16\frac{1}{2}$
Light	... 50/60 lb.	...	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 16	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 16	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $16\frac{1}{2}$
Medium	... 60/70 lb.	...	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$
Medium	... 70/80 lb.	...	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 15	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 15	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 15	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to 15
Heavy	... 80/90 lb.	...	$12\frac{3}{4}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{3}{4}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$ to $14\frac{1}{2}$
Intermediates	... 90/100 lb.	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	13 to $13\frac{1}{2}$
Baconers—Light	... 100/110 lb.	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$
Light	... 110/120 lb.	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$
Medium	... 120/130 lb.	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$
Heavy	... 130/160 lb.	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$
Extra Heavy	... 160/180 lb.	...	12 to 13	12 to 13	12 to 13	$12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$
„	... 180/200 lb.	...	$11\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$	12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$
„	... 200/240 lb.	...	$10\frac{3}{4}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}$	11 to $11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$
Backfatters—250/350 lb.	... ..	...	$8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$
„ —350 lb. and over	... ..	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9	$7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9	$7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9	8 to $9\frac{1}{2}$

G. COLEMAN.