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An estimate of the total outturn of the broom millet crop in New South Wales this year would imply a yield of 790 tons. The actual recorded production last season was 1,142 tons. Adverse weather conditions were chiefly responsible for the reduced yield.

In connection with the question of the provision of timber supplies for fruit and vegetable cases it has been ascertained from the Forestry Commission that the Commission has sufficient young timber available in its plantations to meet case requirements.

PRODUCTION TRENDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR MARCH, 1947.

The general February rains were followed in March by favourable growing conditions over the greater part of the State. The agricultural and pastoral outlook is now quite satisfactory in most areas except the Central Tablelands and Slopes, where conditions are still droughty and a good deal more rain is needed.

Production of butter has responded well to the improved conditions on the North Coast since the beginning of the year. Comparative State totals are as follow:—

	1945-46 tons	1946-47 tons
July-December	16,088	10,950
January	3,639	2,849
February	3,635	3,295
March	3,792	3,596
Total—9 months	27,154	20,690

Prospects for the potato crop continue to improve. A preliminary estimate of the total yield for main crop districts is 43,000 tons. For other vegetables conditions have been extremely favourable, and plentiful supplies should be available during the next three months.

Some 1947 wheat has already been sown, and conditions have so far been favourable. Areas that failed last year have easily been placed in order for resowing and good summer rains throughout the wheat belt have enabled ploughed lands to be cultivated and weeds destroyed. The season's acreage is expected to be above last year's, and may well be a record for the State.

Remarkable regrowth of grain sorghum has taken place since the February and March rains, and the total State yield is now expected to be in the vicinity of a million bushels. Following this season's experience, the crop is expected to be much more popular with farmers next season.

The rice harvest has been delayed by cool weather during March, but should commence late in April. Yields will be below normal in the Leeton area due to hot winds and a severe dust-storm in February, but good yields are expected in the Griffith area.

Weather conditions during March were favourable for coastal citrus fruit, but growth has been retarded on non-irrigated inland areas. Over half of the pome fruit crop has been harvested, but yields are not up to last year's levels. Peaches and other soft fruits, on the other hand, have generally been better than last year.

The State's dried vine fruit pack for 1947 is at present estimated at 7,000 tons, which compares with 8,026 tons for 1946 and a pre-war average of 5,825 tons. The prune crop this year will be about 1,100 tons, drought in the Young district having had a very adverse effect.

Comparative figures of yardings of livestock at Homebush Saleyards are given in the following table:

		Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Ist Quarter, 1944	..	52,600	1,130,000	25,500
Ist ,, 1945	..	45,700	820,000	31,400
Ist ,, 1946	..	54,800	705,000	24,500
Ist ,, 1947	..	41,700	641,000	17,500

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

March, 1947.

SHEEP.

More Sheep and Lambs Available.

The number of sheep and lambs available showed an increase of approximately 20,000 head on the previous month's total yardings despite the fact that supplies were relatively light early in the period, due chiefly to rain restricting trucking operators. During the period 231,098 head were offered for sale compared with 281,945 head for the corresponding month last year.

Quality Improves.

Although medium to good useful light trade wethers and ewes comprised a substantial proportion of the 133,253 head yarded, quality of the sheep submitted, for the most part, showed some improvement. Increased numbers of good to prime heavy descriptions were included, some very attractive drafts being offered.

Prices Reach High Levels.

During the early part of the month, owing to supplies being insufficient to meet full trade requirements, demand was particularly strong and rates advanced, the increase ranging from