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SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**April, 1948.****SHEEP.****Yardings Increase.**

Compared with the previous month, supplies showed an appreciable increase, total pennings for the period amounting to 205,847 head, or approximately 48,000 more than was offered during March. Supplies, however, were below those in normal years, reference to yardings during April in the five-year period, 1943 to 1947, disclosed that the average for this month was 286,000 head. It is anticipated that the numbers available will continue to be light until after the shearing, and until such time as the new seasons suckers commence to arrive on the market.

Grown Sheep in Better Supply.

The supply position in respect of grown sheep showed some improvement when a total of 100,249 head was auctioned. Fair to good useful light trade wethers and ewes were well represented but prime light drafts were comparatively scarce. Some lots offered were on the plain side and only suitable for store purposes. On the other hand, moderate numbers of good to prime heavy grades were available, with odd consignments very attractive and well finished.

Sheep Values Irregular.

Values for all classes of grown sheep were irregular throughout, and the average cost of mutton was lower than in the previous month. At the first sale held, a decline of up to 1s. per head occurred, while at the next sale conducted ewes were weaker although wethers were firm. A further fall in prices was evident at the auctions on the 8th and 12th of the month, values being from 1s. to 4s. per head lower. In the middle of the period inquiry was stronger and a dearer market ruled, the improvement being from 1s. to 2s. per head. Values at the following sale were steady but before the close of the month's operations, prices advanced by from 1s. to 3s. per head, a strong tone generally being evident. A consignment of prime heavy wethers realised 69s. per head, while quite a few sales were effected at prices ranging from 58s. to 66s. each. Other good quality wethers were disposed of at from 40s. to 58s. each, plain and medium descriptions being relatively lower. The cost of good quality wether mutton did not reach the same level as that of the previous month, when heavy was worth up to 9½d. and light 9¾d. per lb. The cost of heavy wether mutton during April ranged from 7d. to 9d., and light 7¼d. to 9¼d. per lb. Good to prime heavy ewes cost from 5½d. to 7½d. per lb., and light 6½d. to 8¼d. per lb., rates for March being 5¼d. to 8d. and 5¾d. to 8½d. for heavy and light respectively. On a per head basis ewes sold to 61s. each, other good quality drafts making from 50s. to 60s. Generally, however, ewes were disposed of at prices ranging from 33s. to 50s. per head, according to

weight and skin value. Realisations for skins were at a higher level than in the previous month. On the accompanying schedule the range in prices per lb. is given.

Heavy Lambs Numerous.

The overall penning of lambs increased, yardings aggregating 105,598 head, which indicated a slight increase over the grown sheep submitted. Good to prime heavy lambs estimated to dress from 38 lb. upwards were well represented, and for the most part made a good showing, some exceptionally nice quality drafts being included. Prime light lambs estimated to dress up to 36 lb. were, however, scarce, but fair numbers of medium to good useful light trade sorts were offered and well suited for trade requirements.

Strong Demand for Light Lambs.

A strong demand ruled for light lambs and suckers but inquiry for the heavy class of lamb generally was not so good. Rates for all descriptions showed some variation over the period and the average cost of the heavy and light weight carcase showed a decline which was most pronounced on the heavy grades. Although rates for light lambs showed little material change at opening sales, heavy grades were up to 2s. per head cheaper. Later, however, prices were not maintained and most classes offered were easier to 2s. per head lower. A further decline in values occurred at the sales held on the 12th April, a fall of from 1s. to 2s. per head generally being evident. However, this was practically recovered at the next sale held. About the middle of the month a stronger demand prevailed for light lambs which were a little dearer, but the heavy descriptions remained firm. A keen inquiry at the next auctions was responsible for an advance of from 1s. to 2s. per head for all classes. Prices showed considerable fluctuation at the auctions conducted on the 22nd April, the market opening firm for light sorts and up to 2s. cheaper for heavy grades. Later, however, a stronger tone prevailed, and at closing realisation showed an improvement of from 1s. to 3s. per head on those prevailing during the morning sales. Closing sales were also somewhat irregular, heavy lambs being up to 2s. cheaper at times, but this decline was fully recovered as sales progressed, while some drafts of prime light lambs were dearer.

Heavy lambs which cost up to 12¾d. per lb. during the previous month made to 12¼d. in April, while the highest level of 14d. per lb. for light grades was the same in both March and April. For the most part, however, heavy lambs were worth from 9¾d. to 12d. per lb and light 11d. to 13¾d. Some consignments of prime heavy lambs made 60s. per head, and on several occasions, sales were effected at prices ranging from 57s. to 59s. each. Good quality consignments of both heavy and light lambs were also cleared at prices ranging from 40s. to 55s. per head.

The supply of hoggets was relatively light, but a number of nice quality light to heavy weight drafts were yarded. Sales generally were made at prices ranging from 8¼d. to 10d. per lb.

The attached schedule indicates the range in prices per lb. of the dressed carcase over the period.

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.		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
April ... 1	28,975	10½-12½	12-13½	9½-10	7½-8½	8-9	6½-7½	7½-8½
" ... 5	18,861	10½-12	12-13½	9½-10	7½-8½	8-9	6-7	7½-8½
" ... 8	30,463	10½-11½	11½-13	8½-9½	7½-8½	7½-8½	5½-6½	6½-7½
" ... 12	26,133	10-11½	11-12½	8½-9½	7-7½	7½-8	5½-6½	6½-7½
" ... 15	23,270	10-11½	11½-12½	8½-9½	7½-8	7½-8½	5½-7	6½-7½
" ... 19	22,612	10½-11½	11½-13½	8½-9½	7½-8½	8-8½	6-7	7-7½
" ... 22	27,355	9½-12	11½-13½	8½-9½	7½-9	8-9½	6-7½	6½-7½
" ... 26			Public Holiday—No Sales held.					
" ... 29	28,178	9½-12	11½-14	8½-9½	7½-9	8-9½	6-7½	6½-7½

G. COLEMAN.

CATTLE.

Increased Consignments.

Pennings for the month aggregated 18,065 head, an increase of approximately 1,500 head over the yardings for March. However, the sales were interrupted by only one public holiday (26th Anzac Day) as against two holidays during the previous month. A total of 2,863 store cattle was included in the offering.

Grown cattle were only moderately supplied throughout most of the month, heavy bullocks being particularly scarce. However, most of the yardings comprised chiefly well conditioned good quality stock.

Rates Decline, Then Improve.

Following a firm to slightly dearer market on the opening sale day, rates became slightly easier and subsequently fell appreciably on the 15th and 19th of the month. On the 22nd, however, there was a stronger demand and values improved. Further improvement on the final sale day restored prices for all classes to a level approximating those ruling at opening.

On a general average prices for most cattle were slightly cheaper than during the previous month. The most marked decline in values was for steers. Prices ruling during the month are shown on the attached schedule.

Weighty Bullocks Not Plentiful.

Supplies of good quality light and medium weight bullocks were well maintained but heavy descriptions were not plentiful.

As was the case with other cattle, prices for bullocks declined appreciably about the middle of the month, but at closing sales values were higher than those ruling on the final sale day in March. A comparison of quotations reveals that the average prices per head of medium and heavy weight bullocks were up to 10s. cheaper than in March, but no difference was apparent in rates for light descriptions.

Appreciable Decline in Steer Prices.

Good quality steers of all weights comprised a large proportion of the pennings.

The decline in steer prices was more noticeable than for other stock. The average range of prices for the whole of the month was 56s. to 62s. per hundred lb., compared with 58s. to 65s. for the previous month. The lowest quotations were recorded on the 19th, and, although values subsequently improved, prices at closing were not on a par with the best obtained during the month.

Cows Well Supplied.

Cows were well supplied, and, although many plain trade sorts were included, useful to good quality drafts made up the majority of the offerings.

The trend in prices for cow beef followed that of other classes. Values declined to their lowest level on 19th when quotations for heavy cows were from 43s. to 50s. per 100 lb. and for light descriptions 44s. to 52s. per 100 lb. Final quotations, however, were almost up to the highest recorded for the month, while a comparison of average rates for April and March revealed little variation in values.

Heifers Mostly Lightweight.

Heifers, although not plentiful, were more numerous than in March. Lightweights of chiefly good quality predominated.

The average price range for April was 57s. to 63s. per 100 lb. and represented only a slight reduction from the March average of 58s. to 64s. However, heifers on the closing market were from 10s. to 15s. per head cheaper than at the beginning of the month.

Moderate Supplies of Vealers.

Vealers, especially prime and weighty lines, were relatively scarce, but light weights, of fair to good trade standard, made up the largest percentage of the pennings.

The trend in market values for these cattle followed that of other stock, the only appreciable fall in prices being recorded at the sales on the 12th and 19th of the month. On a firm market at closing auctions the 70s. to 78s. per 100 lb. quoted was equal to the best of the month. Average rates for vealers during April were equal to those of March.

Cattle.

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. All Weights.	Cows.		Heifers. All Weights.	Vealers. All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.
		Heavy, Over 775 lb.	Medium, 675-775 lb.	Light, 575-675 lb.		Heavy Over 575 lb.	Light 400-575 lb.		
1948.									
Mar.	25	1,489	53-59	55-61	57-65	46-53	46-53	60-64	70-78
Apr.	1	2,407	54-61	56-62	57-63	58-65	49-56	50-57	70-78
"	5	1,727	54-61	56-62	57-63	47-55	48-55	59-66	69-77
"	8	2,391	53-58	56-62	56-63	46-53	48-54	59-66	69-76
"	12	1,927	.....	54-61	54-61	56-61	45-52	45-54	58-65
"	15	2,459	.....	52-60	52-60	54-60	45-52	45-54	56-63
"	19	2,167	.....	50-56	50-57	52-38	43-50	44-52	53-59
"	22	2,306	53-58	54-61	54-62	54-62	48-54	48-56	54-60
"	23	2,681	54-60	54-62	55-63	57-64	46-54	47-56	56-62

P. F. SEXTON.

PIGS.

Supply Position Improves.

Some increase in the number of pigs available occurred, total penning for the period amounting to 6,392 head, of which 2,751 head were received by rail mainly from country centres. The balance of the offering arrived by road transport from metropolitan and near country piggeries. Average yardings on each sale day were 1,598 head, while the largest number offered on any one sale day was 2,070. For the corresponding period last year a total of 6,608 head was auctioned.

Lower Rates for Baconers.

Baconers generally were in good supply throughout the month, and while all grades of weights and quality were submitted, extra heavy descriptions estimated to dress from 180 lb. to 200 lb. and from 200 lb. to 240 lb. greatly predominated. In this classification some very nice quality well finished drafts were yarded, but at times, however, consignments were noticed which were overfat and not suited to the requirements of bacon curers. For the most part the quality of the light to heavy grades was satisfactory, quite a few prime lots being offered. Values showed some fluctuation over the period and the best rates of the previous month were not maintained. At the opening sales values were irregular and most classes cheaper, particularly the extra heavy grades, which in places were up to 30s. per head lower. A further decline was apparent at the following auctions on most classes, although rates for light weight baconers estimated to dress from 100 to 110 lb. did not alter to any appreciable extent. Subsequently prices for light to medium weight grades remained fairly steady, but a further decline occurred on the other weight grades of baconers. Light weight baconers which were worth from 11½d. to 12¾d. per lb. at the close of the previous month's operations, ranged in price for the period reviewed at from 10½d. to 12¼d. per lb. Medium weights estimated to dress from 120 to 130 lb. made from 10½d. to 12½d. per lb., representing a decline of from ¼d. to 1d. per lb. on the highest level reached during March, while, at the close of April, prices had receded to 10½d. to 11½d. per lb. At the opening sales heavy weights baconers cost from 10¾d. to 12d. per lb., but at the final auctions were obtained for 10½d. to 11½d. per lb. Last month they reached 12½d. per lb. Demand for the extra heavy class of baconers eased considerably, particularly over-fat descriptions, those estimated to dress from 160 to 180 lb. made from 10¾d. to 11¾d. per lb. at the commencement of the period, but closing rates were 10½d. to 11¼d. The cost of baconers estimated to dress from 180 to 200 lb. and 200 to 240 lb., at the closing sales, was 9¾d. to 10¾d. and 8¼d. to 9½d. per lb. respectively, representing a fall of from ¼d. to 1d. per lb. on the rates ruling at early sales. In some instances up to £9 15s. 6d. per head was realised compared with £10 8s. 6d.

in March; for the most part, however, on a per head basis good quality baconers sold at from £4 10s. 6d. to £9 13s. 6d. per head according to weight. On the accompanying schedule the trend in prices per pound over the period is indicated.

Demand Eases For Backfatters.

Demand for backfatters was not nearly so strong as in recent months, and lower values generally were evident, rates showing a progressive decline throughout the month, reaching their lowest level at the final sales. Supplies were only moderate, but quality generally was fairly good, some prime heavy weights being included. Good trade light to medium weights, however, comprised a good proportion of those submitted. Pigs estimated to dress from 250 to 350 lb. made from 6½d. to 9d. at the opening auctions, but were purchased at the concluding sales at from 6d. to 8d. per lb. During the previous month the cost of the carcass ranged from 7¼d. to 9¼d. per lb. The heavier class of backfatter made from 5½d. to 8d. per lb. compared with 7d. to 8½d. during March. On a per head basis sales were made to £15 6s. per head. Prevailing rates over the period are shown on the attached schedule.

Porkers Well Represented.

Porkers for the most part were well represented, with good to prime medium to heavy weight grades forming a fairly large proportion of the pennings. Prime extra light to light weights chiefly were scarce, most of those submitted being mainly suitable for store purposes only. At the commencement of the period all classes were cheaper but at the following sales some improvement in realisation occurred. Rates, however, then remained fairly steady until the end of the month, although at times a firmer tendency was evident. Extra light porkers estimated to dress from 35 to 50 lb. were worth from 11d. to 14½d. per lb. and made from 34s. 6d. to 62s. 6d. per head. For the light weights 50 to 60 lb. prices ranged from 48s. 6d. to 68s. 6d. per head, the carcass cost being from 10¾d. to 14¼d. per lb. The medium weight grades were sold at from 54s. 6d. to 89s. 6d. per head and were worth from 10¾d. to 13½d. per lb. The heavy class of porker estimated to dress from 80 to 90 lb. realised from 78s. 6d. to 97s. 6d. per head and cost from 11d. to 13d. per lb. Comparable rates for the previous month were extra-light 11¼d. to 14½d., light 11d. to 13¾d., medium 11d. to 13¾d. and heavy 11d. to 13½d. per lb., while the highest per head realisation was 101s. 6d., which indicates that the average cost of pork during April was below that of the preceding month. Prices per lb. ruling on each sale day for the respective weight grades are shown on the accompanying schedule.

Pigs—Good to Prime Quality.

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	6 April.	13 April.	20 April.	27 April.
No. Yarded each Sale	1,381	2,070	1,336	1,605
Estimated prices per lb. for—	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—				
35-50 lb., Extra Light	11 ³ / ₄ -14 ¹ / ₂	11 ³ / ₄ -14 ¹ / ₂	12 -14 ¹ / ₂	12 -14
50-60 lb., Light	10 ³ / ₄ -14 ¹ / ₂	11 ³ / ₄ -14	12 -14 ¹ / ₂	12 -14
60-70 lb., Medium	10 ³ / ₄ -13 ³ / ₄	11 ³ / ₄ -13 ¹ / ₄	11 ³ / ₄ -13 ¹ / ₂	11 ³ / ₄ -13 ¹ / ₂
70-80 lb., Medium	11 ¹ / ₄ -12 ³ / ₄	11 -13	11 ¹ / ₂ -13 ³ / ₄	11 ¹ / ₂ -13 ³ / ₄
80-90 lb., Heavy	11 ¹ / ₄ -12 ¹ / ₄	11 -12 ¹ / ₂	11 ¹ / ₂ -13	11 ¹ / ₄ -13
Intermediates—				
90-100 lb.	10 ¹ / ₄ -12 ¹ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄ -12 ¹ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄ -12 ¹ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄ -12
Baconers—				
100-110 lb., Light	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -12
110-120 lb., Light	11 -12 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ¹ / ₂ -12
120-130 lb., Medium	11 -12 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ³ / ₄	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₂
130-160 lb., Heavy	10 ³ / ₄ -12	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ³ / ₄	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₂
160-180 lb., Extra Heavy	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ³ / ₄	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₂	10 ³ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₄
180-200 lb., Extra Heavy	10 -11 ³ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄ -11 ¹ / ₄	10 ¹ / ₄ -10 ³ / ₄	9 ³ / ₄ -10 ¹ / ₄
200-240 lb., Extra Heavy	8 ¹ / ₂ -10 ¹ / ₂	8 ¹ / ₂ -10	8 ¹ / ₂ -9 ¹ / ₂	8 ¹ / ₂ -9 ¹ / ₂
Backfatters—				
250-350 lb.	6 ¹ / ₂ -9	6 ¹ / ₂ -8 ³ / ₄	6 ¹ / ₂ -8 ¹ / ₂	6 -8
350 lb. and over	5 ¹ / ₂ -8	6 -8	6 -8	5 ³ / ₄ -7 ³ / ₄

G. COLEMAN.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

April, 1948.

FRUIT.

Apples Slightly Dearer.

Supplies of apples from New South Wales growing areas were lighter during the month and, in addition, only small quantities came to hand from Victoria and Queensland. However, larger shipments from Tasmania helped to offset the decline in receivals from other districts and values made only a slight advance. Quotations throughout the month showed little fluctuation and ranged mainly as follow:—*New South Wales*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s. special coloured to 20s., early sales to 24s.; Jonathan, 8s. to 16s., early sales to 18s.; Granny Smith, 6s. to 16s.; Rome Beauty, 8s. to 10s., few 12s. to 14s.; Cleopatra, 8s. to 12s.; Dunn's Seedling, 8s. to 10s. *Queensland*: Delicious, 12s. to 18s., few 20s. *Tasmanian*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Jonathan, 10s. to 14s.; Worcester, 7s. to 10s.; McIntosh Red, 10s. to 12s.; Cleopatra, 8s. to 12s.; Alfriston, 8s. to 9s., few 10s.; Tasman Pride, 9s. to 11s.; Alexander, 9s. to 10s.; London Pippin, 9s. *South Australian*: Jonathan, 13s. to 16s.; *Victorian*: Delicious, 10s. to 16s., few 18s.; Jonathan, 8s. to 12s., special to 14s., few 15s., per bushel case.