



**AgEcon** SEARCH  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search  
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>  
[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

**SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.****February, 1948.****SHEEP.****Supply Position Improves.**

Some improvement in supplies occurred throughout the period, but despite the increase in the numbers available, when compared with normal years, they were relatively light and not sufficient to meet trade requirements. For the month of February last year, yardings amounted to 225,020 head, but during the period under review penningings were 162,863 head, which indicates a very substantial decline. Supplies, however, showed an increase of approximately 30,000 head on the previous month's aggregate.

**Quality of Yarding Variable.**

The grown sheep available, totalling 76,111 head, showed a wide range of quality, medium to good useful light trade descriptions estimated to dress up to 46 lb. of mutton being numerous, with quite a few plainer grades also included. At times wethers were comparatively scarce, ewes being more in evidence and making a particularly good showing. Good to prime heavy sheep, although in better supply than last month, were not sufficient to meet the full demand for this class of mutton.

**Carcase Costs Lower.**

The best rates obtained in January were not maintained and the average cost of all grades of carcasses was lower. The opening sales were marked by a decline of from 1s. to 2s. per head, and although values of wethers were fairly steady, the price of ewes declined by from 2s. to 3s. per head in the second week. Realisations remained at a fairly even level for the next few sales, but with a keener inquiry prevailing, an advance of from 1s. to 2s., and in places 4s., occurred at the auctions held on 19th February, 1948. From then on, until the close of the period, rates were firm with some sales showing a slight increase. Amongst the best prices recorded was a line of prime heavy wethers at 68s. per head with quite a few sales at from 55s. to 65s. each. Other lines of good quality wethers made from 35s. to 53s. with plain to medium grades at lower levels. Although up to 9¼d. per lb. was obtained for both heavy and light descriptions in January, the highest cost during February was 8d. and 8½d. per lb. respectively. Mostly, however, heavy wethers cost from 6d. to 7½d. and light 6½d. to 8d. per lb. In the case of ewes, an outstanding consignment was disposed of at 60s. per head, several other drafts also sold at from 52s. to 56s. each. Generally good quality ewes were obtained at from 32s. to 51s. per head. During the previous month operators paid to 8¼d. per lb. for ewe mutton, but prices in February did not reach this level, heavy ewes costing from 5d. to 6½d. per lb. and light 5¾d. to 7d. per lb. On the accompanying schedule range of prices per lb. on each sale day are indicated.

### Lambs in Better Supply.

Increased supplies of lambs were offered, a total of 86,752 head being submitted, or approximately 10,000 head more than in the preceding month. The proportion of prime light grades was only small, but in this category fair to good useful lightweights were well supplied. Good to prime heavy sorts estimated to dress from 38 lb. to 46 lb., and occasionally over, were well represented throughout, and at times some particularly fine quality drafts were included.

### Lamb Generally Cheaper.

Although prices being paid for lambs still ruled at high levels, generally they showed some reduction on the previous month's average. Values fluctuated but mostly were more stable than was the case with grown sheep. At the opening auctions most classes were from 1s. to 2s. per head cheaper, but prices later improved by 1s. per head, and occasionally more for prime light sorts. Later in the month a further advance occurred which ranged from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per head, closing values being strong. Although heavy lambs made to 12d. and light 12½d. per lb. in January, in the period reviewed the highest rates obtained were 11½d. per lb. for heavy grades and 12¼d. per lb. for lightweights. For the most part, however, the cost of the heavy carcase ranged from 9d. to 11d. and the light grades 10¼d. to 12d. per lb. Some exceptionally good quality lambs sold at 60s. per head, others making from 40s. to 57s. each according to weight and skin value.

Hoggets were scarce throughout and prices were fairly steady and while at times they cost from 7¾d. to 8½d. per lb. generally rates ranged from 8¼d. to 9d. per lb. The attached schedule indicates the range in prices per lb. of the dressed carcase during 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									
February	...	2	23,434	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
	...	5	23,179	9-11	10½-11½	8½-9	6½-7¾	6½-8	5½-6½
"	...	9	17,942	9½-11	10½-11½	8½-9	6½-8	6½-8	5½-6½
"	...	12	26,907	9½-11	10½-11½	7½-8½	6-7¾	6½-7¾	5-6½
"	...	16	13,937	9½-11½	10½-11½	8½-9	6-7½	6½-7½	5-6½
"	...	19	19,300	10-11½	11-12½	8½-9	6-7½	6½-7½	5-6
"	...	23	17,170	9½-11½	11-12½	8½-9	6½-8	7½-8½	5-6½
"	...	26	20,994	10-11½	11-12½	8½-9	7-8	7½-8½	5-6½

G. COLEMAN.

## **CATTLE.**

### **Increased Consignments.**

Supplies for the month aggregated 15,923 head, and included 2,159 auctioned in the store section. This number considerably exceeded the offering of 12,698 head yarded the previous month, and was slightly more than the total for February of last year.

The excellent pastoral conditions existing throughout the State were reflected in the quality of the yardings which, with the exception of one or two sale days, were of a very satisfactory standard.

### **Considerable Fall in Values.**

Following a decline in values at opening, increased prices were realised on the 9th of the month. Subsequently, however, rates again receded and, with the exception of those of vealers, generally showed no notable improvement for the remainder of the period.

A survey of the quotations recorded during February reveals that all classes of stock were substantially cheaper; in fact, the gain recorded during the previous month was lost and prices declined to a level in most places lower than those of December. Prices ruling during the month are shown on the attached schedule.

### **Supplies of Bullocks Increase.**

Increased numbers of bullocks were in evidence, and although light and medium weights continued to be most numerous, an improvement was noticed in supplies of heavy lines. Quality of the pennings was chiefly good.

Rates declined on the opening sale day, and although some slight advance was effected for light and medium classes, at closing auctions the improvement was not sufficient to restore values to the level of the final January quotations. During the month the average price of bullocks was from £2 to £2 10s. od. per head lower than in January.

### **Good Quality Steers Plentiful.**

The offering of steers was a particularly good one. All weights were well represented and numerous prime drafts were available.

At no time during February did prices approach the best rates for the previous month, and a fall in values of from £1 10s. od. to £2 10s. od. per head was recorded.

### **Poor Demand for Cows.**

Cows made up a fair proportion of most yardings and, although plain dairy bred sorts were numerous, many good to prime lots were also on offer.

With increased supplies of good quality bullocks and steers available for buyers' requirements on most sale days the demand for cow beef was particularly weak. On an average, heavy classes were cheaper than in January by £2 to £3 per head, while values for light descriptions were up to £2 per head lower.

### Fewer Heifers Available.

Heifers were not relatively numerous and were mostly light-weight sorts of good to prime quality, heavy descriptions being in very short supply.

Prices followed the same trend as those of other classes, the rise recorded on the 9th of the month not being maintained. Closing quotes were approximately the same as the final rates for January, but on an average heifers were cheaper than in January by up to 30s. per head.

### Prime Vealers Not Plentiful.

Although vealers were generally well represented, prime lots were not very numerous. Useful to good light and medium weights comprised the bulk of the pennings.

The demand for these cattle was generally much stronger than for other classes and the fall in values was not so pronounced. The rates at closing were slightly higher than those quoted at the final sale day in January and not very much less than the best prices recorded for that month.

### Cattle: Good to Prime Quality.

*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.	All Weights.	Heavy, Over 575 lb.	Light, 400-575 lb.	All Weights.	All Weights Approx. 200-400 lb.
1948.									
Jan. 29...	2,753	55-59	56-62	56-62	58-65	48-54	50-54	54-62	68-75
Feb. 2...	2,333	52-56	54-58	54-58	54-61	44-50	47-50	53-60	65-70
" 5...	2,171	51-55	53-58	54-58	54-61	43-50	47-50	55-60	65-70
" 9...	1,371	57-60	59-64	59-65	60-67	48-56	50-57	60-67	70-77
" 12...	2,288	53-57	54-60	55-60	57-63	45-51	46-52	58-64	67-75
" 16...	2,160	52-56	53-58	53-59	55-63	44-53	48-55	56-64	64-70
" 19...	2,274	51-55	52-56	53-58	54-59	44-49	46-51	54-59	68-73
" 23...	1,566	51-56	52-58	52-59	54-61	44-49	45-52	54-59	68-73
" 26...	1,760	51-56	52-59	54-60	55-63	44-50	45-52	55-62	68-76

P. F. SEXTON.

### PIGS.

#### Pennings Show Considerable Improvement.

The number of pigs available during February showed a considerable increase on the previous month's aggregate of 3,670, pennings for the period being 7,439 head of which 5,481 were received by rail, principally from country centres, the balance of the offerings being mainly drawn from metropolitan and near country piggeries. For the corresponding month last year 6,995 were yarded.

**Rates for Baconers Decline.**

With the sharp rise in the numbers on offer the extreme rates ruling throughout January were not fully sustained, and while a good demand existed, values were lower for all classes. The general quality of the pigs submitted was good, the heavy to extra heavy grade making a particularly good showing, although some drafts carried too much condition for trade needs. Light to medium weight descriptions of good trade quality were also in fairly heavy supply. At the opening sales values were well maintained at the high levels of the previous month, but later a strong downward trend in prices occurred and by the end of February realisations were from 15s. to 30s. lower, and in places a fall of 35s. was noticeable. At the early sales the cost of light weight bacon ranged from 13½d. to 15¾d. per lb., but by the end of the period this class of pig was obtained for 10¾d. to 12¾d. per lb. Medium and heavy weight pigs cost up to 15d. at the commencement of the month's operations, but at the closing sales similar pigs were purchased at from 10¾d. to 12½d. per lb. The extra heavy baconers which cost operators from 12¼d. to 14½d. per lb. at the opening sales were secured subsequently at 10½d. to 12½d. per lb. Light weight baconers sold from £4 11s. 6d. per head compared with £5 18s. 6d. in January. Although up to £13 18s. 6d. per head was obtained at the first sales held during February for extra heavy pigs, the best price obtained at the concluding auctions was £10 15s. 6d. On the accompanying schedule the variation in prices per lb. over the period are indicated.

**Backfatters Cheaper.**

Backfatters generally made an improved showing, all grades of weight being included with good to prime heavy descriptions well represented. A strong inquiry was evident in the first half of the month and values were well maintained. Demand, however, eased and later sales were cheaper, the decline generally being from 10s. to 30s. per head, and occasionally more. Backfatters estimated to dress from 250 to 350 lb. which cost from 8½d. to 10¾d. at early sales were purchased at from 7¼d. to 9¾d. per lb. at the end of the month. Heavier weights estimated to dress over 350 lb. were from ½d. to 1d. per lb. cheaper at closing than at the first sale held, operators obtaining suitable pigs at from 7d. to 8½d. per lb. On a per head basis up to £17 3s. 6d. was realised.

**Good Representation of Porkers and Prices Lower.**

Porkers were in fairly good supply and comprised chiefly good trade medium to heavy weight grades, good quality extra light to light sorts being scarce. Pigs suitable for re-stocking purposes were also numerous, and for the most part met with a strong demand. Values which had ruled at a consistently high level for all classes of porkers were not fully sustained and a downward trend in rates occurred, the decline ranging from 10s. to 25s. per head and more in some places. Extra light 35-50 lb. pigs which cost up to 18½d. per lb. at opening realised from 11¼d. to 13½d. at final sales. Lightweight, although making up to

18d. at the first sales held, were secured at from 11d. to 13½d. per lb. at the concluding auctions. Medium weights showed a decline of from 3¾d. to 4½d. per lb. over the period being worth from 11d. to 13¼d. at the end of the month. The heavy class of porker estimated to dress from 80 to 90 lb. also showed a substantial decline in the per lb. cost of the carcass ranging from 3¾d. to 4d. per lb., selling at from 11d. to 13d. at the concluding sales. On a per head basis up to 74s. 6d. was secured for extra light, 88s. 6d. for light, 109s. 6d. for medium, while heavyweights sold to 119s. 6d. per head. The variations in the cost of porker carcasses in their respective weight grades is 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 carcass.*

Date of Sale, 1948 ... ..	3 Feb.	10 Feb.	17 Feb.	24 Feb.
No. Yarded each Sale ... ..	1,567	2,458	1,599	1,815
Estimated prices per lb. for—	d.	d.	d.	d.
Porkers—				
35-50 lb., Extra Light ... ..	15½-18½	15½-17½	13-16½	...
50-60 lb., Light ... ..	15½-18	15½-17	12½-15	11-13½
60-70 lb., Medium ... ..	15½-17½	14½-16½	12½-14½	11-13½
70-80 lb., Medium ... ..	15-17	14½-16½	12½-14½	11-13½
80-90 lb., Heavy ... ..	14½-17	13½-16	12½-14½	11-13
Intermediates—				
90-100 lb. ... ..	14½-15½	13½-15½	12½-14½	11-12½
Baconers—				
100-110 lb., Light ... ..	13½-15½	13½-15½	12-14½	10½-12½
110-120 lb., Light ... ..	13½-15½	13½-15	12-13½	10½-12½
120-130 lb., Medium ... ..	13½-15	13½-14½	12-13½	10½-12½
130-160 lb., Heavy ... ..	13½-15	13½-14½	12-13½	10½-12½
160-180 lb., Extra Heavy ... ..	13½-14½	12½-14½	11½-13½	11-12½
180-200 lb., Extra Heavy ... ..	13½-14½	12½-14½	11½-13½	11-12½
200-240 lb., Extra Heavy ... ..	12½-13½	12½-13½	11½-13	10½-12
Backfatters—				
250-350 lb. ... ..	8½-10½	8½-10½	7½-10	7½-9½
350 lb. and over ... ..	8-9	7½-9	7½-9	7-8½

G. COLEMAN.