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if the recommended expansion of 28,550 acres is carried out to the full under Land Settlement Schemes and no control of private plantings is exercised the Australian fruit industry will need to look for greatly expanded markets both at home and abroad.

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## **SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.**

**December, 1947.**

### **SHEEP.**

#### **Numbers Decline Appreciably.**

The number of sheep and lambs available during December was relatively light and showed an appreciable decline on the previous month's aggregate. Total supplies for the period amounted to 178,398, representing a falling off in penning of about 18,000 head on the November offerings. For the corresponding period last year, 211,278 head was submitted while comparable figures for the year ended 31st December, 1946, and 31st December, 1947, were 3,080,918 and 2,580,266 head, respectively. For the five-year period ending 1946, the average annual yardings of sheep and lambs was 3,890,596 head. Many factors have contributed towards the reduction in the marketings of sheep and lambs, including drought losses and heavy restocking. Furthermore, during the month reviewed, many producers on mixed farms carrying both sheep and wheat have necessarily been fully engaged with the wheat harvest and, in consequence, have not been in the position to muster, draft and truck sheep or lambs for the metropolitan markets.

#### **Good Quality Offerings.**

Throughout the period, the general quality of the grown sheep available was good and, while shorn descriptions predominated, occasional drafts of woolly sorts were noticed. Good useful light trade wethers and ewes were for the most part in good supply, but the offering of prime and heavy sheep was somewhat limited, although at the end of the period a much better representation of heavy mutton was included, some very attractive drafts of wethers being forward.

#### **Strong Demand for Sheep.**

Owing to the reduced numbers offering, a particularly strong demand ruled for all good quality drafts and improved realisations generally were evident. At the opening sales the market ruled very firm to a little dearer, but the active competition prevailing resulted in an increase of from 1s. to 2s. per head during the second week, with occasional sales of ewes showing a further advance. A shortage of wethers in the third week was mainly responsible for a rise of from 2s. to 3s. per head for this class of mutton, ewes, however, remaining firm. Values were then fairly steady until the end of the period, although on occasions some increase was noticed on prime quality drafts. The average cost of mutton was higher than in the previous month, wethers

making to 70s. per head, while quite a few sales were effected at from 58s. to 69s. each. Generally good trade light to heavy grades sold at from 32s. to 57s. Heavy wethers made to 8¼d. and light 8½d. per lb. which represents an advance of from ¼d. to ½d. per lb. on the best prices of November. At the closing sale last month, wethers were worth from 5½d. to 7¼d. per lb. according to weight, but at the final auctions in December the cost ranged from 7d. to 8¼d. per lb. Some consignments of ewes made to 51s. per head with others generally making from 26s. to 48s., while the cost of heavy classes ranged from 5d. to 6½d. and light ewe mutton 5½d. to 6¾d. per lb., compared with 5d. to 6¼ and 5¼d. to 6¾d. per lb., respectively, during November.

On the accompanying schedule, the trend in prices over the period is indicated.

### **Lambs in Short Supply.**

The number of lambs submitted for sale showed an appreciable decline, the total for the period being 89,418 head, compared with 121,556 head available during the previous month. Suckers were well represented throughout and comprised a substantial proportion of the yarding. Some outstanding drafts of prime heavy grades were included, quality and finish being all that could be desired. While, for the most part, good heavy descriptions made a very satisfactory showing, good to prime light sorts were also offered in moderate numbers with medium quality light weights generally fairly well in evidence.

### **Increased Prices for Lambs.**

A particularly keen inquiry was evident for practically all classes of lambs and suckers and a further improvement in prices occurred. At the commencement of the month's operations an advance of from 2s. to 3s. per head occurred, while at the following sales rates showed a further increase of up to 1s. During the second week, the market was again dearer, values increasing by from 1s. to 2s. each, but the strong tone was not fully sustained and about mid-December an easier tendency was noticeable. Later in the period, however, demand was very keen and realisations were again higher, the month's operations closing particularly strong. A consignment of prime heavy suckers was disposed of at 65s. per head, with several drafts selling at from 54s. to 59s. each; for the most part, however, good quality light to heavy grades made from 38s. to 53s. per head, other classes selling at correspondingly lower levels. During the month, heavy grades were worth up to 11½d. and light 12½d. per lb., compared with 10¼d. and 11½d. for heavy and light grades, respectively, in November. Generally, however, heavy descriptions cost from 9d. to 11¼d. and light 10¼d. to 12¼d. per lb. Closing prices per lb. showed an increase of from 1d. to 1½d. per lb. on those ruling at the final auctions during the previous month.

A strong demand prevailed throughout for the limited numbers of hoggets yarded and rates advanced on those prevailing last month when up to 8½d. per lb. was paid, compared with 9¾d.

per lb. for the period under review. Values early in the month ranged from 7½d. to 8¾d. per lb., but at the closing auctions this class of mutton was worth from 8¾d. to 9¾d. per lb.

The schedule which accompanies this review indicates variations in prices of the various classes of suckers, etc., over 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 carcass.*

Date of Sale.	No. Yarded.	Suckers and Lambs.		Hoggets.	Wethers.		Ewes.	
		Heavy.	Light.		Heavy.	Light.	Heavy.	Light.
1947.		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
1 December ...	23,114	9 -10¼	10¼ -11¾	7½ -8¾	5¾ -7¼	6½ -7½	5¼ -5¾	5½ -6¼
4 " ...	22,920	9 -10½	10¼ -12	7½ -8¾	5¾ -7¼	6½ -7½	5 -5¾	5½ -6¼
8 " ...	18,009	9½ -11	11 -12	8 -8¾	6¼ -7¾	7½ -8	5½ -6¼	5¾ -6½
11 " ...	24,291	9½ -10¾	10¾ -12	7½ -8¾	6¼ -7½	7½ -7¾	5¼ -6¼	5¾ -6½
15 " ...	16,456	9½ -11	10¾ -12	8 -8¾	7½ -8¼	7½ -8½	5½ -6¼	5¾ -6½
18 " ...	30,562	9½ -11½	10¾ -12¼	8¼ -9¾	7½ -8¼	7½ -8½	5½ -6½	5¾ -6½
22 " ...	20,424	9½ -11½	10¾ -12¼	8¼ -9¾	7¼ -8¼	7½ -8¼	5½ -6½	5¾ -6½
29 " ...	22,622	9½ -11½	10¾ -12¼	8¼ -9¾	7 -8¼	7½ -8¼	5½ -6½	5¾ -6½

G. COLEMAN.

## CATTLE.

### Decline in Yearly Supplies.

The total yardings of cattle at Flemington for the year ended 31st December, 1947, was 194,745. This figure was 18,208 less than the number offered during the previous year.

Consignments for the month of December aggregated 17,978, or over 1,000 more than the November penning. Supplies of heavyweight stock showed an improvement, but light and medium weight descriptions of chiefly satisfactory quality were mostly in evidence.

### Higher Prices.

The market remained generally steady at the final November quotes until about the middle of the month when a fairly considerable rise in values was evidenced. At the close of operations for December prices were higher for all classes of cattle, particularly steers, which were dearer by up to £2 per head. Prices ruling during the month are shown in the attached schedule.

### More Heavy Bullocks.

Although bullocks continued in fairly short supply, more heavy lines were available than was the case last month. Quality of the offerings was, for the most part, satisfactory. On a very firm market at closing auctions, values were higher by 15s. to 30s. per head than the final November quotes. However, an average estimate of prices over the whole of trading operations for both months reveals that bullocks were only slightly dearer during December.

**Steers Well Represented.**

Steers made up a good proportion of most offerings and comprised mainly medium and heavy weights of generally good quality. Prices ranged from 59s. to 67s. per 100 lb. at closing, a substantial increase on the 54s. to 59s. quoted on the final sale day in November. The average price of steers was up to 15s. per head higher in December than in November.

**Quality of Cows Variable.**

Cows were consistently well supplied throughout the month and, although many lots of only plain trade standard were included, there was a satisfactory representation of good trade and prime sorts.

On an average light cows were dearer by approximately 10s. per head during December, but heavy classes showed little variation in rates.

**Supplies of Heifers Increase.**

Heifers were available in increased numbers, and quality also showed some improvement. Light and medium weights of mostly good trade standard were mostly in evidence.

Prices prevailing throughout December were at times higher than the best November quotes, but an overall average of daily quotations for both months reveals very little alteration in values.

**Prime Vealers Scarce.**

Lightweight vealers of mostly only fair quality were available in good numbers during the month, but prime lots were relatively scarce.

The average range of prices for December was on the same level as that of the previous month, although on one sale day slightly higher rates than the best of November were recorded.

*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.
1947.		s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
27 Nov.	2,316	51-56	54-58	54-58	54-59	45-51	46-52	52-58	64-72
1 Dec.	2,946	50-55	52-57	52-57	54-59	43-49	45-51	51-57	64-72
4 "	2,531	51-56	53-58	53-58	55-60	45-51	46-54	52-59	65-71
8 "	2,085	.....	53-58	54-58	55-62	46-53	47-55	54-60	64-71
11 "	2,303	50-56	51-57	52-57	55-62	46-53	48-54	54-59	64-71
15 "	1,442	52-58	55-63	56-64	58-67	47-56	48-56	58-65	70-77
18 "	2,306	52-58	54-60	56-63	58-66	46-56	52-56	56-64	68-75
22 "	2,029	50-57	54-58	56-60	62-68	48-54	53-57	55-65	68-75
29 "	2,336	56-59	57-60	58-63	59-67	46-54	49-58	57-65	68-75

P. F. SEXTON.

## PIGS.

### **Smaller Numbers Available.**

Supplies of pigs were only slightly reduced, although only three sales were held during the month owing to the intervention of the Christmas and New Year holiday period. The yarding of 2,730 on the last sale day, 16th December, was the largest since January, 1947, and brought the total for the period under review to 5,675 head, which includes 2,721 received by rail. This represented a decline of 285 head on last month's offerings, but was considerably higher than the total of 3,915 for December, 1946.

### **Baconers Well Represented Throughout.**

Baconers were fairly well represented during the period and were, for the most part, of good trade to prime quality. The pennings comprised chiefly heavy to extra heavy weight grades on the first two sale days. At the final auctions, however, these classes were lightly supplied, but good trade light to medium weights made a much better showing. Inquiry was keen, and at the commencement of the month's operations values were firm, but subsequently rates improved, an advance of up to 10s. per head generally being evident, with some sales showing a further increase. Light weight baconers sold from £5 9s. 6d. per head, or from 13d. to 14½d. per lb. Medium and heavy weight grades realised up to 14d. per lb., while extra heavy weights estimated to dress up to 180 lb. brought up to 13¾d., 180 lb. to 200 lb. up to 13d., and over 200 lb. were quoted at from 11½d. to 12¾d. per lb. On a per head basis up to £11 17s. 6d. was realised.

### **Backfatters Lightly Supplied.**

The offering of backfatters, for the most part, was light, although a moderate number were penned on the second sale day of the period under review. The quality generally was good to prime with heavy to extra heavy weights predominating. Medium weights also made a good showing at times. Request was good, and values generally were firm, although heavy weights were in places a little easier. Realisations for pigs estimated to dress over 350 lb. ranged from 7½d. to 9¼d. per lb. Lighter weights, estimated to dress from 250 lb. to 350 lb. were firm throughout at from 8¾d. to 10d. per lb.

Realisations on a per head basis were from £9 18s. 6d. to £17 11s. 0d., according to weight and quality. The market for boars was firm, demand being better than in recent months.

### **Porkers Dearer.**

Although the supply of porkers was fairly heavy, particularly at the closing sales, demand was strong throughout, values showing an advance of up to 5s. per head, and more in places. Most grades of weight and quality were on offer, although light weights on occasions were scarce. Extra light weight porkers, estimated to dress up to 50 lb., realised to 70s. 6d. per head and were worth up to 18d. per lb., pigs ranging from 60 lb. to 80 lb. cost

up to 105s. 6d. dressed, or 16¼d. per lb. Heavy weight grades, dressing from 80 lb. to 90 lb., made to 117s. 6d. per head, and up to 15¾d. per lb.

Suitable store pigs were in short supply early in the month, but were more numerous at subsequent sales. Inquiry for the most part was good, and values were higher in some instances. The accompanying schedule indicates the trend in prices over the period.

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

Date of sale, 1947	...	...	...	2nd Dec.	9th Dec.	16th Dec.
Number yarded each sale	...	...	...	1,221	1,724	2,730
Estimated prices per lb. for—				d.	d.	d.
Porkers—35-50 lb., extra light	...	...	...	14½-16½	15½-17½	15½-18
50-60 lb., light	...	...	...	14½-16	15¼-16½	15¼-17
60-70 lb., medium	...	...	...	14-15½	15-15¾	15-16½
70-80 lb., medium	...	...	...	13¾-14¾	14¼-15½	14½-16½
80-90 lb., heavy	...	...	...	13½-14¾	14-15½	14-15¾
Intermediates—90-100 lb.	...	...	...	13¼-14	13¾-14¾	13¾-14¾
Baconers—100-110 lb., light	...	...	...	13-14	13½-14½	13½-14½
110-120 lb., light	...	...	...	13-13¾	13¼-14¼	13¼-14¼
120-130 lb., medium	...	...	...	13-13½	13-14	13-14
130-160 lb., heavy	...	...	...	12¾-13½	12¾-13¾	12¾-14
160-180 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	12¾-13½	12¾-13½	12¾-13¾
180-200 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	12½-13	12¾-13½	12½-13½
200-240 lb., extra heavy	...	...	...	11¾-12½	11¾-12½	11½-12¾
Backfatters—250-350 lb.	...	...	...	8¾-10	8¾-10	8¾-10
350 lb. and over	...	...	...	8-9½	7½-9	7½-9

T. R. PERRY AND G. COLEMAN.

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS.

December, 1947.

### FRUIT.

#### New Season's Apples on Offer.

Only relatively small consignments of Delicious and Granny Smith apples from cool stores in New South Wales were available, as the season was virtually finished for these varieties. For choice packs rates were maintained at high levels, up to 46s. per bushel and occasionally more being realised. There was a keen inquiry for Batlow-grown Yates, and best sizes sold to 40s. per bushel. Interstate supplies comprised mainly Victorian Yates, Tasmanian Democrats and Western Australian Granny Smiths. Marketing of new season's apples from coastal orchards progressed. The bulk of supplies, however, comprised cookers, although some dessert varieties were available towards the close of December. Values for ordinary varieties were wide owing to the