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NEW SOUTH WALES
STATE MARKETING BUREAU
DIVISION OF MARKETING
AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



APRIL, 1944.

Vol. 11

No. 4

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
ACTING CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING
AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
SYDNEY

MONTHLY MARKETING REVIEW.

A MISCELLANY OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARKETING
OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
AND PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ACTING CHIEF
OF THE DIVISION OF MARKETING AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

APRIL, 1944.

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HIGHLIGHTS.

The main or inland potato crop of New South Wales has been officially forecast at 46,000 tons for the 1943/44 season. Prospective yields will not approach earlier expectations on account of adverse conditions.

Now "ceiling" prices for pears have been announced by the Assistant Prices Commissioner. The maximum price for Williams Favourite, Packham's Triumph, Josephine and Winter Colo is now 18/- and all other varieties 15/- per bushel.

Generally unfavorable weather conditions are expected to result in a below-average yield of maize in New South Wales this season, the anticipated yield being 2,700,000 bushels.

The Minister for Commerce and Agriculture announces an increase of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. for dehydration quality mutton with the object of securing increased supplies of this class of meat. The new price is 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ d per lb.

The Chairman of the Production Executive states that the Executive has set an Australian production goal of 105 million dozen eggs for 1944/45. This represents an increase of 5 million dozen on the current season's goal which is likely to be 14 million dozen eggs fewer than had been hoped for.

An interim subsidy payment to dairy farmers of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per pound for butter has been approved. This represents a higher interim payment than was approved last year.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
EGG MARKETING BOARD FOR THE STATE
OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

In presenting its Fifteenth Annual Report, together with the Audited Accounts of the 1942-43 Pool period, the Board draws attention to the fact that the period covered was one of fifty-seven weeks. Knowing that the Controller of Egg Supplies, appointed under National Security (Egg Industry) Regulations, intended to assume his control as from 5th July, 1943, the Board obtained the Minister's agreement to extension of the Pool period to 3rd July, 1943.

The Board points out that State-wide control operated throughout the period, whereas the Board commenced State-wide control only in November, 1941, so that the 1941-42 Pool covers full control for part of the period only. The Pool period, therefore, was one of fifty-seven weeks as compared with fifty-two weeks in the previous Pool, and producers should bear this in mind in giving consideration to all features of this report.

It is not possible to publish the full text of the Board's report and the following is restricted to the main features.

Production and Prices.

Comparison of production is difficult because the last two Pools cover differing periods and areas. Generally, allowing for these features, July and August production was somewhat below normal, being recovered in September. The heavy rain of October, 1942, resulted in an unseasonal decrease, which was partly recovered in December. In March and April a marked increase was noted. May and June show comparative declines in total production.

Total production for the period was handled as follows:

	<u>1942-43</u> <u>Dozens</u>	<u>Percent-</u> <u>age of</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>1941-42</u> <u>Dozens</u>	<u>Percent-</u> <u>age of</u> <u>Total</u>
Consigned to Sydney Floor	15,247,727		17,979,061	
Consigned to Newcastle Floor	2,910,544		3,538,913	
Consigned to Depots	8,818,363		5,363,874	
Total of Consignments	26,976,634	63.25	26,881,848	69.8
Sold by Producer Agents	15,670,038	36.75	11,653,189	30.2
Total Recorded Production	42,646,672	100.00	38,535,067	100.00

/It ...

It will be seen that consignments to country depots increased by 3,454,489 dozens, while the Sydney and Newcastle floors recorded decreases of 2,731,334 and 628,369 dozens, respectively. Sales by Producer Agents increased by 4,016,849 dozens. The fifty-seven week period and full period of State-wide control affect both depot intake and Producer Agents' sales figures while the main floor handlings indicate the tendency to reduced production in the metropolitan area.

While the top price for the main grade - hen eggs - did not rise above 2/- per dozen during the autumn and winter period the gross price paid averaged 1/7.51d per dozen and the nett price (after deducting Pool Collection and Commission) 1/4.85d per dozen on all eggs received. These prices were 5.29d per dozen and 4.88d per dozen more than those of the previous Pool.

The increases registered throughout were of material assistance to the industry, which certainly needed a return higher than that of 1941-42. Many of the production costs vary on individual farms, and no estimate of the extent of the increase in production costs could be of assistance in view of shortages of normal feed supplies, building materials, etc.

It is of interest to note that the value of the total production of 42,646,672 dozens exceeds £3,250,000.

Income and Expenditure.

Total income of the Board was £402,071.10.0, an increase of £78,777.12.1 compared with the previous period. Following are the details:

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Pool Deductions -							
Consignors	158,579.	2.	7	Increase	9,125.	8.	
Producer Agents	98,487.	14.	8	"	28,901.	11.	
	257,066.	17.	3		38,026.	19.	
Commission	142,532.	17.	6	Increase	39,022.	8.	
Sundry Income	2,471.	16.	0	"	1,728.	4.	
	£402,071.	10.	9		£78,777.	12.	1

Expenditure totalled £450,157.7.2, this figure included provision for the final instalment in repayment of the 1933-34 deficit.

Details are as follow:-

/Board...

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Board Administrative Expenses, including costs of the Producer Agency System ...	16,624.	2.	9	Increase	4,525.	11.	11
Stabilisation Costs and Expenses ...	183,097.	8.	0	Increase	82,297.	11.	0
Commission to Wholesale Agents, etc. ...	36,484.	6.	2	Increase	20,924.	14.	2
Standard Case System and other Sundry Pool Expenses	30,131.	16.	11	Decrease	2,329.	4.	2
Floor Running, Selling and Distributing Expenses ...	180,555.	5.	10	Increase	43,276.	19.	3
Trading Expenditure ...	446,892.	19.	8	Increase	148,695.	12.	2
Add 1933-34 Pool Deficit Repayment and Interest ...	3,264.	7.	6	Decrease	96.	18.	3
	<u>£450,157.</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>2</u>	Increase	<u>£148,598.</u>	<u>13.</u>	<u>11</u>

Marketing the Production.

In previous years, one of the main problems has been the surplus over and above local market requirements. Following the extreme shortage of eggs experienced in the autumn and winter of 1942, and in view of the increased Service demand, it was apparent that, although there would be some surplus over demand in the spring season, it would not be nearly as serious as in the past few years. The Board, therefore, endeavoured to sell as many eggs as possible on the local market, giving necessary preference to Service demands. By comparison, the New Zealand market paid the next best prices, the balance being sold for drying. By thus clearing the market, the Board was able to maintain better prices than those of earlier years, while a steadily maintained demand also assisted producer agents in their sales.

Surplus for Drying.

After attempting, with the meagre information available regarding possible Service demands, to gauge sales and to provide for orders in hand from New Zealand, the Board arranged to sell its anticipated early spring surplus of 35,000 cases for drying. Naturally, the price received for these stocks had a bearing on prices generally, and, after making representation through the Egg Supervision Committee with other States' representatives, the Board received an increase in price equivalent to approximately 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per dozen. The average net realisation was 1/4.43d per dozen, while the price paid to producers for eggs sold for drying was 1/6.04d per dozen, against 1/1.92d in the previous period, an increase of 4.12d per dozen. Although costs from the time of delivery at the Board's floors were borne by the buyer, the charges against the account include costs associated with interest, storage, rentals and cartage /on...

on the 250,000 cases purchased on overdraft during the previous Pool. These charges, excluding wages, of handling, reconditioning etc., totalled £12,072, against which the case depreciation allowance by the buyers totalled only £1,979.

It had been arranged that a further payment of £16,000 in reduction of the overdraft on cases would be made during the period, but in view of the financial position the Board notified the Commonwealth Government that this payment could not be made. Cases sold realised £9,627, and provision for payment of this sum was made. This amount, added to realisations of stocks of cases subsequent to July 3, 1943, will, it is expected, completely clear the overdraft before the end of the 1943-44 period.

Cold Storage.

When packing for sale for drying ceased at the end of September, the cold storage venture commenced. Cold storage space in Sydney was unobtainable, and it became necessary to rail or cart eggs to stores which had not previously been used by the Board. Among the centres where storage took place for the first time were the Abattoirs, Riverstone, Orange and Young. The usual storage facilities at Newcastle were available, and the usual Sydney stores accommodated small quantities at the end of the storing period.

Having in mind the serious shortage of eggs in the previous year, the Board strained its finances to an unprecedented degree to endeavour to stabilise prices and provide against another shortage period.

Over 88,000 cases were placed in store, mainly during October and November, when surpluses were greatest. The extra handling resulting from the use of cool stores at a considerable distance from the packing floors, together with a return journey after storage, added to the long period in store, resulted in an average wastage of slightly more than 7 per cent.

Gross realisations totalled £215,006, or 1/7.81d per dozen. Charges, including a small proportion only of rehandling costs, totalled 2.52d per dozen, or £27,172, giving a net realisation of £187,834, or 1/5.29d per dozen compared with payments to producers for eggs stored totalling £201,744, or 1/6.59d per dozen.

The equalisation debit of £13,911 excludes the greater proportion of rehandling cost, which is charged in the Floor Running Section, and no interest charge has been made against the venture.

Had the Board's request for an increase in price to 2/3 per dozen from early May onwards been granted, realisations would have increased by over £10,000, and the equalisation cost would have been lowered accordingly.

/Frozen ...

Frozen Whole Egg (Egg Pulp) Trading.

A further increase in pulping activities, due to increased local demand, expansion of the New Zealand outlet, and further manufacture of dried whole egg, is reported. Stocks pulped totalled 6,648,117 dozen, compared with 4,355,662 dozen during the previous year. 980,000 lb. were manufactured for export to New Zealand, this being supplemented by the purchase of 560,000 lb. from South Australia, which quantity was also forwarded to New Zealand.

24.72 per cent. of our total intake was pulped, an increase of 9.55 per cent. compared with 1941-42.

615,040 lb. were used in the manufacture of dried whole egg, and 130,865 lb. of albumen for dehydration.

Cost of eggs used was £460,677 and net realisations, after deducting all costs, including those applicable to sales of pulp in New Zealand, totalled £391,317, giving an equalisation debit of £69,360, or 2.11d per lb.

Local prices were fixed by interstate agreement. In three years this method of co-operation resulted in lifting the value of egg pulp from 9d to 1/1 per lb. throughout Australia, with resultant benefits to producers in the form of egg prices, an indication of the value of co-operation.

Increasing costs were recorded in respect of containers and labour. Continuation of pulping at country centres resulted in satisfactory results, although recently refrigeration difficulties have necessitated cessation of pulping at smaller centres.

At both Sydney and Newcastle the expansion of pulping activities resulted in overcrowding and consequent loss of efficiency, while stocks for pulping accumulated, involving increased storage charges.

Discussions with Waterside Cold Stores Ltd. resulted in the allocation of increased space in their new building, the Board's pulping installation at Sydney now being a modern, up-to-date plant.

Dehydration Activities.

Albumen - Demand for dried egg albumen was again greater, sales showing an increase of 33-1/3 per cent. Lack of supplies of some imported raw materials made it necessary to revise some parts of the manufacturing process, but, despite the use of a greater proportion of liquid albumen to each pound of dried albumen, this increase in cost was offset to some extent by reduction in other manufacturing costs. Throughout the period orders exceeded the capacity to supply, Service priorities being

/given ...

given preference. 16,211 lb. (dried) were produced, the equalisation gain, excluding overhead costs (charged in Floor Running Expenses) being £2,599.

Dried Whole Egg - The period of short-supply for eggs in shell continued during June and early July, 1942, and during this period the manufacture of egg powder instead of egg pulp was continued. Our early sales to New Zealand proved very satisfactory and a large repeat order was taken in June for future delivery. Prices asked were in advance of those previously paid. Unfortunately shortly after the order was given and accepted the Commonwealth Government refused to allow the powder to be dried at Hexham from eggs pulped at Newcastle. Efforts to have the decision reversed lasted for some time, and when these proved unsuccessful there was no alternative to use of the Riverstone plant. These delays resulted in drying operations taking place in the December-January period instead of during the spring months. As prices to producers had been advanced in the meantime, the equalisation cost was proportionately heavier, while the effect on the cold storage venture was to increase the average length of storage, with consequent deterioration in quality and increase in charges.

Stocks manufactured later in the period were sold at increased prices.

Some 170 tons of powder were made, this including the order for the New Zealand Government.

New Zealand (Eggs in Shell) Trading.

Having strained its financial position to the limit and absorbed all available space in cold stores, a limited quantity of eggs was sold to the New Zealand Government. Reduction of supplies made it impossible to fulfil the order and portion only was forwarded.

Realisations at 1/6 per dozen, costs being 1.24d per dozen, gave a net realisation of 1/4.76d per dozen. Producers were paid 1/6.91d per dozen for eggs used, the equalisation debit being 2.15d per dozen.

Interstate trading.

6,229 cases were consigned to the Melbourne and Brisbane markets during the period. In both cases the Interstate market absorbed temporary surpluses, the net realisations averaging 1/6. per dozen, or nearly 1¹/₂d per dozen in excess of the net cold storage price. Transport difficulties made further use of interstate markets impracticable economically, delays, on route, particularly in the case of the Queensland consignments, causing quality deterioration, which affected realisations.

Floor Running and Selling Expenses.

Throughout the spring and summer months particularly, the manpower problem was most acute. In view of the seasonal nature of the occupation and of the attractive rates of pay offered by wartime industries, it became impossible to obtain the necessary staff to handle intake. Overtime hours were particularly heavy, the office staff, despite their own load, being called upon to work at grading machines, worked by experienced candlors, on three nights per week for lengthy periods.

The country depot system was extended to better advantage, but it should be remembered that the majority of the depots had, in the previous Pool, been operative for only six to seven months.

This section has also been charged with costs of handling of cases used for and returned from the drying venture at Riverstone.

Accurate comparison is difficult by reason of the increased length of the Pool and the fact that State-wide control had its effect throughout the period, office staff expansion being necessary during the spring period, when the full effect of country production became apparent.

Deliveries of grading machines were well behind schedule, and even at the present time full deliveries have not been made. Sufficient to handle production on the Central Floor have been erected, and beneficial results on our costs are now being recorded.

Selling service activities, both metropolitan and country have, since the commencement of Federal Control, been curtailed to avoid unnecessary waste, the objective being to transform the organisation as rapidly as possible to carry out its newly limited functions, at the same time as giving a maximum of service to producers compatible with economy.

The Balance Sheet.

On this occasion, the commencement of Commonwealth Control interrupted the normal procedure of realisation of all assets, etc., by sale to the next Pool. For that reason, the balance sheet is given with all assets, liabilities, etc., as at July 3, 1943.

Assets of a fixed nature were still, to some extent, the property of the producers who contributed Pool funds. Producer Agents no longer contribute to the Board's finances in respect of private sales, and it was therefore considered equitable that assets accumulated from industry funds should remain the property of the Board, in trust for the whole industry.

Sundry debtors and stocks have since been realised apart from very small stocks, while creditors have been paid.

/The...

The Board's main finances have been transferred to the Rural Bank of New South Wales, the Case Purchase and Reimbursement Accounts being retained at the Commonwealth Bank. Realisations of cases and packing materials are expected to liquidate the overdraft during the 1943-44 year. Bulk of the realisations are already in hand.

Conclusion.

The full result of the Board's work is not shown in the figures of audited accounts, and to obtain the full picture the producer should again refer to the prices paid as compared with those of earlier years, including 1941-42. Undoubtedly no other State in Australia, with the possible exception of Queensland (where Service demand absorbed all available supplies), gave to producers a return comparable with that from the New South Wales Board.

The new form of control commenced at the end of the 1942-43 Pool period and the Board was no longer charged with the problem of stabilising the market. From its reduced income, and despite a continued increase in labour costs, the Board set itself the task of continuing, and where possible improving, its service to the industry and at the same time rehabilitating its finances.

The New Zealand market, developed by the Board during a two-year period, will undoubtedly prove of immense value to the industry throughout Australia. The full cost of stabilisation expense for the two years has been borne by New South Wales, but, nevertheless, this expense returned great benefits to the industry throughout Australia in the same period.

Co-operation of all parties in the new form of control is essential if the needs of the industry are to be met during the war and post-war periods. Proper appreciation of those needs in Government circles will do a great deal towards building up the poultry industry, not only for the immediate future, but for those years of rebuilding which must follow after hostilities have ceased.

-----oooOooo-----

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Further increase in numbers.

A further improvement occurred in the number of sheep and lambs auctioned, supplies for the period aggregating 416,026 head or about 27,000 more than the previous month's total.

Quality chiefly fair.

Wethers and ewes were well represented, 226,930 head being yarded. General quality was only fair, plain to medium grades comprising a fairly large proportion of the supplies. Plain aged ewes, in particular, were well in evidence. At times attractive drafts of prime heavy sheep were included in the offerings, while moderate numbers of fair to good light trade descriptions were also forward.

Good sheep sell well.

Generally, strong competition was evident for good to prime sheep but demand for the plain and medium grades was restricted and a dull tone prevailed. The market up to about mid March was reasonably steady for the better classes of sheep, when values declined by from 1/- to 2/- per head. On the following sale day, however, realisations were better and the fall of the previous sale day was practically recovered. Following sales until the end of the period showed a very firm tone and on one occasion wethers were again 1/- per head dearer. On occasions, values for plain sheep reached very low levels and at times difficulty was experienced in effecting disposals. Some representative sales are:-

First Week

Good heavy	48 lb. wethers	(skin 4/6)	made 22/10	each or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per lb.
"	trade 38 lb. ewes	(" 4/-)	" 14/4	" "	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	" "

Second Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 5/6)	made 21/7	each or	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	per lb.
"	" 45 lb. ewes	(" 6/6)	" 19/10	" "	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	" "

Third Week

Good trade	45 lb. wethers	(skin 8/6)	made 22/4	each or	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d	per lb.
"	" 44 lb. ewes	(" 4/6)	" 15/7	" "	3d	" "

Fourth Week

Good trade	46 lb. wethers	(skin 5/6)	made 21/10	each or	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	per lb.
"	heavy 50 lb. ewes	(" 6/6)	" 18/8	" "	3d	" "

/Closing...

Closing Sales

Good heavy 50 lb. wethers (skin 7/6) made 25/11 each or 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
 " " 48 lb. ewes (" 8/6) " 20/10 " " 3d "

Rates for mutton practically unaltered.

Although on occasions prime light wethers were worth per lb. and odd lots of good trade quality made 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, by far the greater proportion of light wethers sold at from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. At times, prime heavy wethers realised 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. but most sold from 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Occasionally good heavy sheep were obtained for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Values of ewes did not fluctuate to such an extent, good heavy grade selling at from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3d and light at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3d per lb. Plain and medium grades cleared at relatively lower prices.

More lambs available.

Supplies of lambs showed an increase of approximately 9,000 head, the total number yarded during the period being 189,000 head. Suckers continued to be lightly supplied, summer lambs preponderating. Prevailing dry conditions were reflected in the fairly large numbers of medium quality lambs offering. Prime light lambs were somewhat scarce but some attractive lots were included. Moderate numbers of good heavy lambs were yarded, several drafts of outstanding quality and extra heavy weight being noticed.

Lambs sell well but market irregular.

Lambs at all times met a fairly keen demand, nevertheless the market showed some variation over the period. At opening sale rates remained virtually unchanged, the market remained fairly steady until the fourth sale day when lower prices ruled, values declining by from 1/- to 1/6 per head. At the following sale demand was again restricted and values further declined by 1/- to 2/- per head. Subsequently, however, realisations improved and the market at closing was consistent with prices obtained early in the month. In the ensuing record of actual sales, prices trends may be followed.

First Week.

Good trade 33 lb. lambs (skin 4/-) made 24/3 each or 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
 " heavy 39 lb. " (" 6/6) " 28/3 " " 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d " "

Second Week.

Good trade 34 lb. lambs (skin 4/6) made 23/1 each or 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
 " heavy 44 lb. " (" 4/6) " 26/6 " " 6d " "

Third Week

Good trade 31 lb. lambs (skin 3/-) made 22/4 each or 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d per lb.
 " heavy 45 lb. " (" 5/-) " 29/2 " " 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d " "

/Fourth

Fourth Week

Good trade 32 lb. lambs (skin 3/6) made 23/5 each or 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.
" heavy 38 lb. " (" 4/6) " 26/3 " " 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d " "

Closing Sales

Good trade 34 lb. suckers (skin 4/-) made 26/2 each or 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb.
" heavy 42 lb. lambs (" 5/-) " 28/9 " " 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d " "

Lower cost of lambs.

The average cost of lamb was not quite so high as during the previous month, good light lambs and suckers reaching 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. as compared with 8d in February. For the most part, suckers when available were disposed of at from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. and light lambs made 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, although at times rates ranged from 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb. Heavy lambs realised to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb. but most sold at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d with odd sales ranging from 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Rates for hoggets showed little material change over the period, heavy grades being worth from 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ d to 5d and light descriptions 5d to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

With a continuance of prevailing dry conditions it is expected that supplies of sheep and lambs will still continue to be on the plain side.

Heavy cattle yardings.

Consistently heavy yardings of cattle were submitted and the monthly aggregate of 21,375 head was the largest for some considerable time. The total auctioned in the store section was 2,474. General quality was most variable and, on the whole, only fair. Nevertheless, good trade to prime stock was well represented on occasions. Poorly bred cattle again comprised a noticeable proportion of the penning, although, in this regard, some improvement was evident during March. Rainfall during the period was scattered and generally disappointing and the pastoral position showed further deterioration.

Firm market for bullocks.

Numbers of bullocks forward fluctuated fairly considerably but generally truckings were comparatively light. On several occasions, however, there was an increase in supplies. Lightweights of fair to good trade standard predominated but medium weights were well represented; on some sale days, heavy bullocks made a very fair showing. The market showed some degree of fluctuation but generally alterations in values were not marked. Demand was very firm at the close, especially for heavy descriptions, and quotations generally for good to prime quality were:- Heavy 45/- to 49/-, Medium weight 47/- to 50/-, Light 48/- to 52/-.

/Steers

Steers plentiful.

Steers were in plentiful supply and all grades of weight and quality were available. From sale day to sale day, however, quality generally showed a fairly wide variation. For the most part the penningings comprised light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard. A firm market ruled and prime lightweights again realised to 55/- per 100 lb. The market for prime sorts was slightly weaker at closing, although good trade lines were in fairly strong demand, quotations being 48/- to 53/- per 100 lb.

Uneven truckings of cows.

Consignments of cows varied considerably both as to numbers arriving and quality. The market was fairly firm at opening and rates for prime cows ranged to 44/- per 100 lb. Later values were a little weaker but some improvement was noticed towards the close when both light and heavy descriptions sold to 42/- per 100 lb. On some occasions rates for heavy cows were higher than those obtained for lightweights. Prime heavy cows realised to £15.0.0 per head.

Heifers fairly plentiful.

Heifers were well represented, especially good trade light and medium weights. Towards the close many heavier descriptions were noticed. Demand was somewhat weak for good trade lines which sold from 42/- per 100 lb. Prime sorts, however, met a good demand and brought to 48/- during most of the period, while the equivalent of 51/- per 100 lb. was secured during the final week.

Steady market for vealers.

Supplies of vealers were chiefly moderate but quality varied considerably. However, good trade medium weights were well in evidence while, on occasions, prime lines made a fairly good showing. The market was steady and quotations generally ranged from 52/- to 60/- per 100 lb. On the final sale day, however, demand was very weak for fair to good trade sorts, values of which declined to the lowest level for some considerable time. This decline, however, was only of a temporary nature.

Small reduction in pig supplies.

Numbers of pigs arriving at Homebush during March, 1944 continued to be substantial, although the total submitted at auction (9,765 head) was a little below that of the previous month. Consignments by rail aggregated 7,151 while an additional 378 pigs were disposed of by private treaty. The increased supplies coming to hand have placed a strain on the killing facilities at the Homebush Abattoirs from the point of view of labour available. At the close of the month the numbers of pigs awaiting slaughter were accumulating.

/Fluctuating

Fluctuating market for baconers.

Baconers were well represented throughout the month and all weights were available, although the percentage of extra heavy descriptions submitted fluctuated fairly considerably. Quality ranged chiefly from fair to good trade. Prime baconers made a fair showing at times but the proportion of animals of a desirable export type was small. The opening market for baconers was very firm and rates for most grades of weight ranged from 9½d to 10d per lb. Extra heavy descriptions also sold well with prices per head up to £7.10.6. Values subsequently were not quite maintained and during the third sale demand for light and medium weights became very weak, following action by the authorities to enforce their powers of acquisition. At the final auctions, however, the market recovered the fall of the previous sale day for these grades of pigs.

Keen demand for backfatters.

Consignments of backfatters were variable and generally ranged from light to moderate. Fair to good trade medium weights greatly predominated and, except on one occasion, prime heavy sorts were in limited supply. Demand was keen throughout the period and the market firmer, quotations for both light and heavy descriptions ranging to 6½d per lb.

Poor demand for small porkers.

Increased numbers of porkers were forward comprising all grades of weight and quality from small stores to prime heavy weights. Towards the close of the month, however, fewer small animals were submitted. Porkers met competition from both operators and feeders but demand was irregular, especially for pigs dressing less than 80 lb. Values were highest at opening when well-bred stores brought to the equivalent of about 11d per lb. Prices of porkers bought for slaughtering ranged to about 9½d per lb. Request for small pigs was generally very slow and at times only 6d per lb. was realised.

G.C. & J.W.

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Apples more plentiful.

Considerably increased consignments of local and Interstate apples were received towards the close of March. From local sources, Jonathans comprised the bulk of supplies, although a number of other varieties, e.g. Granny Smith, McIntosh Red, Gravenstein, Delicious, Stayman's Winesap, Cleopatra and London Pippin were included. Demand was good for Jonathans and choice large fruit sold up to the maximum of 18/- per bushel. The market for Granny Smiths showed some fluctuations; values were weak early but with a decline in consignments subsequently rates for best trade sizes improved. There was a steady inquiry for other varieties and with the exception of Cleopatra and London Pippin maximum prices were obtained for selected sizes. Small fruit of the different varieties was difficult to sell throughout the month.

The small quantities of Delicious, Jonathan and Granny Smith which came to hand from Queensland early in March met a good inquiry.

Fairly large consignments of Jonathans were received from Victoria and South Australia, while Tasmania added a quota just prior to the close of the month and values had to be lowered. Tasmanian Alfristons sold well but Worcester Pearmain, apart from the first shipment, met a restricted inquiry and some packs were sold at low rates.

Pears in request.

Both local and Victorian Williams pears sold very well and values showed an upward movement, best packs selling to 18/- per bushel, the maximum for this variety. Consignments of Packhams were forward but the bulk of the fruit was destined for cool storage as the ceiling price for this variety was only 15/-. Just prior to the close of March a Tasmanian shipment arrived on the market and was offered at the rate mentioned. Victorian supplies were expected to be available early in April. Some small lots of local Howells and Bourre Bosc were obtainable and best sizes sold to the ceiling price of 15/- per bushel.

Citrus fruit scarce.

Only small consignments of Valencia oranges were received and the demand far exceeded the supply. The retail trade received very few, the bulk of the fruit going to hospitals. There appeared to be little intermediate crop fruit and no appreciable supplies of new season's oranges are expected to be available until early May.

Keen inquiry ruled for the small quantities of lemons received from Coastal districts. A consignment of Queensland fruit came to hand late in March and was quickly disposed of.

Peaches and plums sell satisfactorily.

The season for dessert peaches was practically finished. Disposals of supplies of the J.H. Hale variety from inland districts were effected at very satisfactory prices. Canning varieties, mostly from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, showed much variation as regards keeping qualities and prices were irregular.

Fairly large consignments of Victorian peaches (mostly canning sorts) were forward, but breakdown was noticeable in some packs and values suffered on this account. The quality showed improvement late in the month and prices advanced.

Good demand ruled for President plums and up to 15/- per half case was paid.

Grapes meet a good request.

Choice, black muscatel grapes from within the County of Cumberland sold very well and at times up to 25/- per half-case was paid. Inland supplies increased and best packs sold from 16/- to 18/-. Cornichons from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were well represented and the realisations for best packs ranged from 12/- to 14/-. Of the white varieties, apart from Muscats, Waltham Cross met a good request and up to 16/- was paid. Rates obtained for Doradilla and Gordos were satisfactory for the most part.

High rates rule for bananas.

The market for bananas was again firm and values showed a sharp rise after mid March when the range was 52/- to 58/- per case with specials higher.

Pineapples in heavy supply.

Large supplies of pineapples were received, bi-weekly consignments ranging from about 6,000 to 10,000 cases. Demand was slow at times and clearances between consignments could not be effected. The presence of water blister in many packs was largely responsible for the restricted inquiry. Prices showed fairly wide fluctuations and the peak level was around 25/- per case. However, the greater part of the supplies was sold at a much lower price.

Light supplies of passionfruit.

Passionfruit were lightly stocked and choice packs sold up to 30/- per half-case and occasionally higher.

Request for water melons slackens.

The keen demand which prevailed for water melons early in March was not maintained owing to the advent of a cool change. Disposals were very slow towards the end of the month and values slumped.

Cantaloupes from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area met ready sale where size and quality were satisfactory, but small and immature packs proved very difficult to clear and a good deal of loss occurred.

Other Fruits.

Only small quantities of papaws came to hand and clearances were effected promptly. The first new season's custard apples and avocados made their appearance.

Dry weather in vegetable growing areas.

Weather conditions continued to be adverse to the production of vegetables throughout the greater part of the coast growing belt during March, while frosts in inland districts were responsible for damage to pea crops.

Supplies of Beans increase and values ease.

The market for beans was firm until 3rd March and choice lines were realising the maximum of 20/-. The receipt of a large consignment from Victoria to supplement local supplies resulted in a sharp decline in prices and the assistance of the Department of Supply had to be sought to clear surplus stocks. During the second week of the month supplies were lighter and values firmed, it being possible to obtain the ceiling rate of 20/- per bushel for choice lines, but difficulty was experienced in disposing of medium to low grade lots. The position remained fairly stable until the closing week when large quantities reached the market from Coastal and inland sources, as well as from Victoria and Queensland. With a restricted inquiry sellers were forced to reduce prices appreciably but stocks continued difficult to sell. However, the Department of Supply purchased a large quantity which assisted the market to recover. Apparently growers on the Far North Coast planted earlier than usual as supplies from this area do not usually reach the market until the winter season.

Choice peas in request.

Little difficulty was experienced in obtaining the ceiling price for choice peas throughout March, although there was a tendency for values to ease just prior to the close of the month. As many as 2,000 bags were on offer on some days, while on others supplies dropped to below the 1,000 bag mark, and on these occasions demand was particularly keen, with some retailers unable to secure /sufficient....

sufficient for their requirements. Frost damage was noticeable in some consignments from Tableland areas but it did not appear to be extensive.

Cabbages realise high prices.

Little difficulty was experienced in selling choice cabbages and rates ranged up to 30/- per dozen on a few occasions. Generally the market was maintained around 22/- per dozen for choice heads, although specially selected lots usually were dearer. With more plentiful supplies of beans, peas and cauliflowers at the close of the month values showed an easier trend.

Cauliflowers in request.

Consignments of cauliflowers showed improvement towards the end of March. Demand, however, was mostly very good, particularly for the week-end trade when values generally advanced above ruling levels. Rates for choice heads were mainly 24/- to 30/-, although up to 36/- per dozen was paid at times.

Maximum price obtained for choice, coloured tomatoes.

There was a firm market for tomatoes until towards the end of March when increased quantities were received from the Gosford and Batlow districts, the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and Victoria. It was still possible to obtain the ceiling rate of 12/- for extra choice, coloured packs, but the general tone was weaker. Fairly large quantities of green tomatoes, mostly from growers within fairly easy reach of the City, were purchased for Service requirements.

Carrots more plentiful - Parsnips and swedes scarce.

There was a scarcity of loose parsnips but considerably heavier supplies of carrots were available and values were easier. Only an occasional consignment of swede turnips was received.

R.M.

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ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Supplies of potatoes increase.

Consignments of local potatoes to Alexandria Goods Yard were heavier, comprising 18,956 bags compared with 8,570 bags in February. The bulk of the tubers was received from the Guyra, Black Mountain, Armidale, Taralga and Burrawang districts. It was necessary for a percentage to be regraded owing to second growth, scab and mechanical injuries. There was a good demand, and practically all were made available for general trading purposes at the following rates:- No. 1 Grade (Factors and a few Manhattans) £6.12.6; No. 2 and No. 3 £6.0.0; Chats £5.5.0 to £6.0.0, Seed £11.0.0 to £12.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals from Victoria totalled 5,770 bags which consisted mainly of Carmans with a few Early Manistee. A small percentage was taken for essential services. No. 1 Grade was disposed of to the trade at £6.12.6 per ton. Supplies received in Sussex Street from Tasmania showed a considerable increase, 140,217 bags coming to hand as against 111,271 bags in the previous month. The shipments consisted mostly of Bismarcks, Brownells and Up-to-Date. A fairly large percentage was made available for general trading purposes. Sales of No. 1 Grade were effected at £6.12.6 with No. 2 and No. 3 Grade at £6.0.0 per ton.

One truck of local Factors arrived at Darling Harbour and these were disposed of at £6.12.6 per ton.

Heavier supplies of Tasmanian swedes.

Consignments of swedes to Alexandria continued to be exceptionally light and totalled 240 bags from local centres. Portion of the supplies was badly graded and realised £6.0.0 but the remainder brought £12.0.0 per ton. Supplies in Sussex Street showed a marked increase when 6,383 bags arrived from Tasmania. Early sales were effected at £10.0.0 but later £11.0.0 per ton was realised.

Carrots and parsnips very scarce.

Carrots received at Alexandria consisted of only 4 bags and these were disposed of at the maximum rate of £22.10.0 per ton. Arrivals in Sussex Street from Tasmania were limited to 690 bags; portion was taken over by the Federal Authorities, the remainder selling at £22.10.0 per ton.

Stocks of parsnips comprised 59 bags of locals which arrived at Alexandria and these sold at £16.0.0 to £20.0.0 per ton.

/Other...

other Root Crops.

Sweet Potatoes from Queensland totalled 156 bags which realised £16.0.0 per ton. Tasmanian Beet received in Sussex Street consisted of 163 bags, portion of which sold at £12.0.0 per ton.

Local pumpkins plentiful -- values ease.

Arrivals of local pumpkins again showed an increase, about 64 trucks coming to hand. Owing to continued heavy consignments, agents were forced to accept lower rates to clear stocks. Opening sales were at £14.0.0 to £16.0.0 but rates were gradually reduced to range from £10.0.0 to £13.0.0, with a few carry-over lots at £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Queensland supplies comprised 24 trucks. Rates were gradually reduced and although £15.0.0 was secured early, later sales were at £10.0.0 with a few lines at £9.0.0 per ton.

Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast totalled 561 bags. Opening sales were at £14.0.0 with rates gradually falling to £10.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour, 2 trucks received early in the month realised £12.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton.

Onion supplies increase slightly.

Victorian brown table onions at Alexandria continued in light supply and comprised 5,846 bags, which consisted of the following:- 4,199 brown table which realised approximately £17.0.0 to £18.10.0, 448 Victorian white which sold at £21.0.0 and 1,199 bags of brown pickling which sold at £17.10.0 to £21.0.0. White pickling onions were disposed of at £21.0.0 per ton. At Darling Harbour supplies totalled 11 trucks of Victorian brown table lots and 2 trucks of brown pickling; these realised £18.0.0 to £18.10.0 per ton.

Good demand for oaten chaff.

Supplies of oaten chaff were smaller and totalled 155 trucks. All lines sold readily at unchanged rates, medium bringing £6.0.0, good sound £6.10.0 to £7.5.0, prime £7.10.0 to £8.0.0, choice £8.0.0 to £8.5.0 with a few special lots £8.10.0 per ton. One truck of good sound was submitted at auction and realised £6.16.8 per ton.

Wheaten chaff sells slowly.

Consignments of wheaten chaff comprised 25½ trucks. Sales at times were slow at unchanged prices were as follows:- Medium £6.0.0 to £6.15.0, Good sound £7.5.0 to £7.15.0, Prime £7.15.0 to £8.10.0; with a few choice lines at £8.10.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Sales by auction consisted of 3 trucks, medium being disposed of at £6.10.0 and good sound at £6.16.8 and £7.1.8 per ton.

/Lucerne....

Lucerne chaff scarce and dearer.

Receipts of lucerne showed a considerable falling off, supplies aggregating 34 trucks as against 67 trucks in February, and all lines on offer were in request at higher rates. Clearances were effected at the following rates:- Good sound £10.0.0 to £11.0.0, prime £11.0.0 to £12.10.0, choice £12.0.0 to £13.0.0 per ton. One truck of good sound submitted at auction cleared at £11.1.8 per ton. Lucerne threshings consisted of 1 truck which realised £9.0.0 to £9.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne hay sells well.

Arrivals from the Maitland district amounted to 62 trucks. A satisfactory demand ruled; a few new soft grown lots sold early at £3.10.0 but the bulk made £4.10.0 to £6.10.0 with a few sales at £6.15.0 per ton.

Supplies from other centres totalled 68½ trucks which included 17 trucks of derrick-pressed. Sales were made at higher rates, medium lines bringing £7.10.0 to £8.10.0, good sound £9.0.0 to £10.15.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.10.0, choice £11.0.0 to £12.0.0. A few special lots £12.10.0 per ton. Sales of derrick-pressed were as follows:- Medium £6.15.0, prime £7.10.0 to £7.15.0, few choice £9.10.0 per ton. Five trucks were submitted at auction, prime lines selling at £7.11.8 to £8.1.8. One truck of grassy hay sold at £5.10.0 per ton.

Exceptionally light supplies of oaten hay.

Arrivals of oaten hay continued to be very light, only 14 trucks coming to hand. Included were 5 trucks of rack and 9 trucks of derrick pressed. There were no choice rack lines on offer. Clearances were made as follows:- Good sound lots early at £5.0.0 to £5.5.0, later £6.0.0 to £7.0.0 with prime lots at £9.10.0 per ton. Derrick pressed lines realised:- Good sound £5.0.0 to £6.5.0, prime £6.10.0 to £6.15.0 per ton. Only 1 truck of wheaten hay came to hand and this cleared at £5.0.0 per ton.

Straw plentiful - rates remain firm.

Arrivals of oaten straw were exceptionally heavy (60 trucks) an increase of 25 trucks compared with February. At times sales were rather slow but in most cases prices showed little change. Damaged lots brought £5.0.0, good sound £6.0.0 to £6.10.0, prime £6.0.0 to £7.0.0, choice £7.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Supplies of wheaten chaff comprised 8 trucks, prime lines moving out at £7.0.0 per ton.

Wheat consignments fairly light.

Arrivals at Alexandria comprised 34 trucks. F.A.Q. lines were sold at 3/8 per bushel. Three trucks of under quality were submitted at auction, pick-ups selling at 3/- to 3/2d and smutty lots at 3/0d per bushel.

/Supplies...

Supplies of new season's maize increase.

Receivals of maize showed a considerable improvement, a total of 4,886 bags being received from local centres and Queensland. Local yellow sold early at 8/- to 8/4 but rates gradually declined to 7/3. A few sales of white were recorded at 8/- to 8/4, with a few heated lots at 7/- per bushel.

In the latter half of the month a few sales of Queensland yellow were made at 7/6 to 7/10 per bushel. A fair percentage of the supplies from Queensland and local centres was consigned direct to private agents and no rates were disclosed. Arrivals in Sussex Street from the North Coast showed a considerable increase, 1,433 bags coming to hand. Opening sales were made at 8/- but later 7/6 and 7/3 per bushel was accepted.

Oats well supplied but rates increase.

Arrivals of oats were fairly heavy when 11 more trucks were received than the previous period and totalled 48 trucks. Very few sales were made, the bulk of supplies being consigned direct to private buyers, no rates being disclosed. Sales of a few trucks were made at 3/- to 3/6 while 2 trucks at auction realised 2/9 and 2/11½d per bushel.

C.H.F.

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WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING MARCH, 1944,
AND CORRESPONDING FIGURES AT 31st AUGUST, 1939.

The following table gives particulars of the range of prices in Sydney, as collected and recorded by the Division of Marketing and Agricultural Economics in respect of various commodities for the period indicated:-

Commodity	March, 1944		31st August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Wheat: Home Consumption				
Bulk - per bushel	3/11½d (unchanged)		2/4d	
Flour - per ton	£10.4.2 (plus £2.8.10 tax)		£6.12.3 (plus £6.2.9 tax)	
Bran - " "	£6.0.0 (unchanged)		£4.5.0	
Pollard - " "	£6.0.0		£4.5.0	
Eggs - per dozen	2/-		1/-	
Butter (choice) per cwt.	169/4		161/2	
Cheese:				
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d		11d	
Large " "	1/-		10½d	
Special Brands	1/1	1/3½	1/2	

	March, 1944		29th August, 1939	
	From	To	From	To
Figs (Abattoir Sales):				
Good to prime per head -				
Porkers:				
Extra light	22/6	44/6	31/6	40/6
Light	30/6	53/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	35/6	72/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	52/6	76/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.15.6	£7.10.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.15.0	£12.10.0	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

Note: The pig sales nearest 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

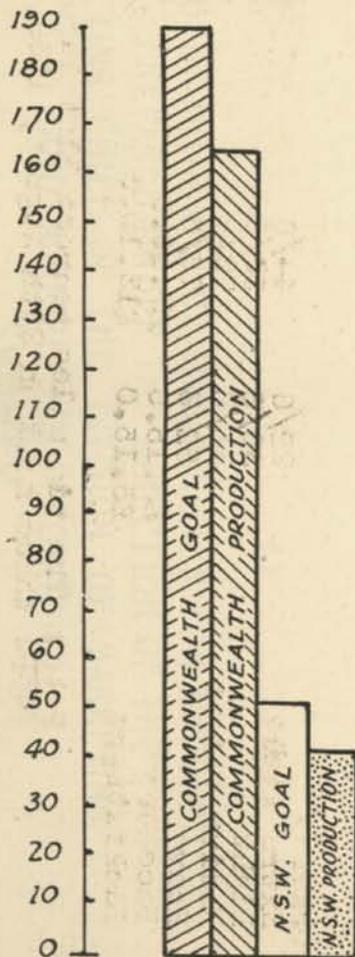
DAIRY PRODUCTS

N.S.W. AND COMMONWEALTH STATISTICS

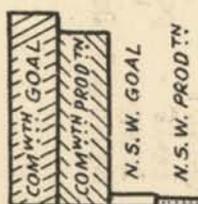
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THOUSAND TONS

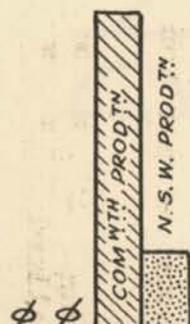
BUTTER



CHEESE

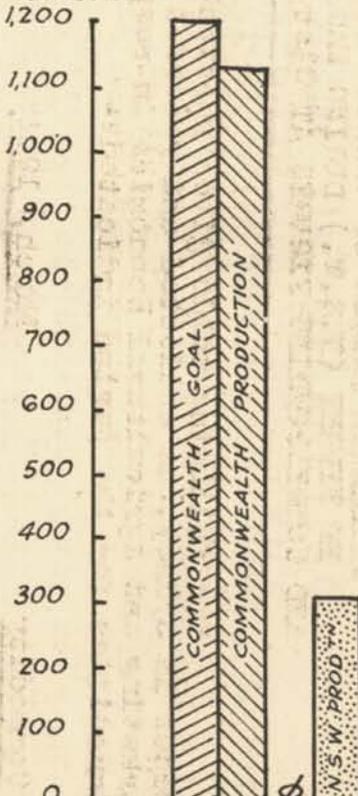


MILK PRODUCTS



* TOTAL WHOLEMILK

MILLION GALLONS



NOTES: * Other than Butter, Cheese and Milk Products, the total Wholemilk includes quantities consumed as fresh milk.
 φ There were no goals for some Milk Products or for N.S.W. total Wholemilk.

Compiled: R. J. A. 3. 4. 44
 Drawn: E. S. 4. 4. 44
 Checked: R. J. A. 5. 4. 44

H. J. Byrnes.

Acting Chief, Div. of Marketing & Agri. Economics.