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604

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



MONTHLY
MARKETING
REVIEW



AUGUST, 1944

Vol. 11

No. 8

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

AUGUST, 1944.

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<u>Table of Contents</u>		Page
Highlights		160
Australian Wheat Prices		161
Sheep, Cattle and Pig Sales at Homebush		165
Fruit and Vegetable Sales at City Municipal Markets, Sydney		171
Alexandria Railway Goods Yard and Sussex Street Sales		175
Commodity Prices in Sydney		179
Graph: Mutton and Lamb - Production, Export and Apparent Consumption 1943.		180

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HIGHLIGHTS

The Minister for Conservation announces that the first harvest from the N.S.W. Government's rice-growing project at Wakool has yielded 8,800 tons from about 4,000 acres. The net profit on the crop is expected to be not less than £40,000.

A quota system for livestock slaughtering has been introduced in New South Wales with a view to ensuring equitable distribution of meat. The scheme applies to all wholesale and retail slaughterers in the County of Cumberland, The Maitland Pastures Protection District within 14 miles of Newcastle Post Office and in Shires and Municipalities where meat export works are operating.

The Government Statistician has reported that wheat farmers in New South Wales intended to sow 3,143,000 acres during the current season (1944-45). This area falls short of the official target by more than 650,000 acres, and is well below the area licensed to be sown.

It is reported that the Federal Government has approached the United Kingdom authorities with a view to obtaining an increase of 3d per lb. for choicest Australian butter which would represent an additional return to the Commonwealth of probably £1½ million per year.

According to figures released by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician there was a small excess in Civil merchandise trade in 1943/44, exports totalling £A.99,687,000 and imports £98,133,000. It is stated that civil exports exclude all goods admitted free for the use of the Commonwealth Government and equipment, etc., imported for Allied Troops and all goods shipped overseas on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts a record wheat crop of 1,132,105,000 bushels compared with a ten-year's average of 760,199,000 bushels.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT PRICES.

(By P.C. Druce, B.Ec., Division of Marketing
and Agricultural Economics).

Introductory.

The substantial increases in the price received by the Australian Wheat Board for wheat exported in recent months has led to numerous complaints by wheatgrowers and wheatgrowers' organisations that the grower is not now receiving a fair price for his wheat and that, in effect, he is subsidising the stock feeder and manufacturer of breakfast foods and power alcohol. Strong demands for an increase in the price of wheat sold for stock feed or an increased subsidy on this wheat are being made in several quarters.

It is the purpose of this article to set out clearly, in view of the demands which are now being made by wheatgrowers, the prices which the Board is receiving for wheat and the advances which it makes on wheat acquired.

It is not proposed to go into a detailed history of the Australian Wheat Board or its policy since it was formed in 1939. It will suffice to say that the Board was established at the outbreak of war in September, 1939, under the Wheat Acquisition Orders, to ensure that wheat should be marketed in an orderly manner and that the maximum co-ordination should be maintained with the shipping authorities.

The Board was empowered, amongst other things and subject to directions of the Minister for Commerce, to purchase, sell or dispose of wheat or wheat products and manage and control all matters connected with the handling, storage, protection and shipment of wheat acquired.

Payments to Growers.

The Australian Wheat Board now acquires, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, all wheat grown on licensed areas and for this wheat makes advances at certain guaranteed rates.

For the first 3,000 bushels of each registered crop produced on licensed acreage (i.e., quota wheat) the Board makes an advance of $4/1\frac{1}{d}$ per bushel for bagged wheat delivered at the growers' sidings.³ For bulk wheat the advance is $3/11\frac{1}{3}$ per bushel at growers' sidings.

For wheat produced on licensed areas over and above 3,000 bushels (i.e., non-quota wheat) the Government has guaranteed an advance of 3/- per bushel for bagged wheat at growers' sidings, and 2/10d for bulk wheat for the 1944/45 season.

/Advances...

Advances on non-quota wheat in the past two seasons have been, up to date, as follows:

No. 6 Pool (1942/43) 3/- per bushel for bagged wheat, and 2/10 per bushel for bulk.

No. 7 Pool (1943/44) $2/1\frac{1}{3}$ d per bushel for bagged, and $1/11\frac{1}{3}$ d per bushel for bulk.

Whether there will be further advances or payments made on non-quota wheat depends on the prices received by the Board for wheat sold. However, all moneys received by the Board are distributed amongst growers after expenses for transport, storage, handling and administration have been deducted.

Some difference of opinion exists as to the course which will be adopted should advances on non-quota wheat reach the advance made on quota wheat and there still remains a credit in the pool. Should this happen in forthcoming seasons it is possible that the balance remaining in the pool would be spread evenly over quota and non-quota wheat.

Sales by the Board.

The position in regard to advances made by the Board for wheat acquired is quite clear. But in the case of wheat sold by the Board the position is not quite so straightforward.

For the purposes of this article the sales may be best divided into sales of wheat for (a) home consumption and (b) export.

With the outbreak of war, open market dealings in the international wheat trade virtually ceased and sales became a matter of negotiation between governments. The result is that sales of wheat for export are now arranged after negotiations between the Australian Wheat Board and the British Government or the governments of other countries requiring wheat.

Within Australia the price is fixed by the Board, and varies according to the purpose for which the wheat sold is to be used. Full details of the prices now ruling in Australia are set out below.

(a) Wheat sold for Home Consumption.

(i) Wheat is sold to millers for home consumption flour at $4/2\frac{1}{4}$ d per bushel, bagged, at terminal ports. For bulk wheat the price is $3/11\frac{1}{4}$ d per bushel at terminal ports.

With respect to this wheat the Board, and hence the grower, receives the proceeds of the Flour Tax. The operations of this tax are dealt with in some detail later.

/(ii)...

(ii) For wheat sold to the local Produce Trade $3/6\frac{3}{4}d$ per bushel is received for bagged wheat at terminal ports for quantities under 2,000 bags; for quantities over 2,000 bags the price is $3/6d$ per bushel.

In cases where the freight from the sending station to the buyer's station is less than the freight from the sending station to the "terminal port", the buyer receives the benefit of the difference in freight.

For all wheat sold to the Produce Trade the Board receives a payment of $6d$ per bushel from the Commonwealth Government.

(b) Wheat sold for Export.

As was pointed out earlier in this statement export prices of wheat and flour have risen very considerably during the past six or eight months. Prices, however, show considerable variation depending on the destination.

In February of this year the Board sold 40,000,000 bushels to the British Ministry of Food at the following prices:

For delivery East of Suez approximately $5/4\frac{1}{2}d$ per bushel f.o.b. for bagged wheat, and $4/11d$ per bushel f.o.b. for bulk; and

For delivery West of Suez, $4/10\frac{3}{4}d$ per bushel f.o.b. for bagged, and $4/5d$ per bushel for bulk.

The substantially higher prices obtained for wheat for delivery East of Suez were, no doubt, due to the fact that Australia was the only suitable source of supply for this area, whereas farther west Britain was able to draw on Canadian and Argentine stocks.

Since then, wheat has been sold at prices ranging between $5/9d$ and $6/11\frac{3}{4}d$ per bushel. It is not known what quantities have been sold at these prices, but it is unlikely that large quantities have been disposed of at the maximum price quoted.

The prices now being obtained are more than double the rate ruling at the outbreak of war. The Commonwealth Statistician quotes the following as the average export prices for the five years since the outbreak of hostilities:

1939	....	$2/5\frac{1}{2}d$	per bushel	
1940	....	$3/11\frac{1}{2}d$	" "	
1941	....	$4/2d$	" "	
1942	....	$4/2d$	" "	
1943	....	$4/3d$	" "	(average of first 6 months of the year).

(These prices are a weighted average of shippers' limits for growers' bagged and bulk lots, f.o.b. ports).

The Flour Tax 1938.

In 1938, as part of a general plan for the stabilisation of the wheat industry, a tax in the form of an excise duty was imposed on flour for home consumption.

This tax imposes a duty on flour for home consumption the rate per ton by which the price per ton of flour based upon the price of wheat per bushel f.o.r. at Williamstown, Victoria, less than the price of flour would be if the price of wheat per bushel f.o.r. at Williamstown were 5/2d. The tax is not in any case to exceed £7.10.0 per ton of flour.

The proceeds of the tax are allocated to the States for distribution to wheat farmers.

Thus the Flour Tax means, in effect, that for all wheat used for the manufacture of flour, with the exceptions listed below the wheatgrowers receive 5/2d per bushel at ports.

The Flour Tax does not apply to:

- (a) Bran and pollard unsuitable for human consumption.
- (b) Breakfast foods.
- (c) Animal or bird foods.
- (d) Flour to be exported.
- (e) Flour for use in the Northern Territory.
- (f) Flour for use in the manufacture of cornflour, starch, glucose, etc.
- (g) Flour for use by a public charitable institution.
- (h) Flour used for the manufacture of infants' and invalids' food.

When considering the demands now being made by wheat-growers and their representatives for an increased price or an increased subsidy for wheat sold to stock feeders and manufacturers of power alcohol and breakfast foods, it is important to keep in mind that since 1938 the wheatgrowers have been subsidised by the operation of the Flour Tax. Since 1939, wheat export prices have ranged between approximately 2/1d and 4/3d per bushel, and during the whole of this time wheatgrowers have received 5/2d per bushel for wheat used for flour for local consumption.

The price of wheat in Australia is no longer determined by open market operations. It has, for some years past, been fixed arbitrarily by the Government and the price fixed is a matter of Government policy. For this reason it would seem that the Government is quite justified in selling some wheat below the present market realisations if in the past it was justified in selling, as it did, considerable quantities of wheat above the prevailing market price.

SALES OF LIVESTOCK AT HOMEBUSH, SYDNEY.

Some improvement in supplies of sheep and lambs.

The aggregate pennings of sheep and lambs showed some increase when compared with those of the previous month, although supplies continued to be light. Yardings for the period totalled 272,377 head as against 263,951 head in June. The reduced numbers coming forward may be regarded as largely seasonal inasmuch as the winter months are usually periods of short supply.

General quality a little better.

Some improvement in quality was at times manifest but plain to medium grades of wethers and ewes still comprise a fairly large percentage of the yardings. Fair numbers of good light trade sheep were received and on occasions good to prime heavy descriptions made a better showing. Although the aggregate pennings of sheep and lambs was larger, the total of 150,514 head of grown sheep submitted was about 20,000 less than the June total.

Sheep values reasonably steady.

The market for sheep did not display such irregularity as was evident during the previous month. Opening sales were marked by a generally firmer tone and at the following auctions an increase of up to 2/- per head occurred. Subsequently, however, the market remained fairly steady, although at closing values generally were a little higher for good quality wethers. Rates for plain descriptions at times reached very low levels and this class of sheep proved difficult to sell while medium quality lines displayed a good deal of irregularity. Fair numbers of shorn sheep were submitted and these mostly sold better than the woolly descriptions. Some representative sales are given hereunder as a guide to price movements over the period:-

First Week

Good trade	44 lb. wethers	(skin 12/6)	made	37/9	each	or	7d	per	lb.
"	"	"	"	29/-	"	"	5 ³ / ₄ d	"	"
"	44 lb. ewes	(" 8/-)	"						

Second Week

Good trade	40 lb. wethers	(skin 8/6)	made	32/7	each	or	7 ¹ / ₄ d	per	lb.
"	"	"	"	21/5	"	"	6d	"	"
"	42 lb. ewes	(pelt 6d)	"						

Third Week

Good trade	40 lb. wethers	(skin 10/6)	made	34/6	each	or	7 ¹ / ₄ d	per	lb.
"	"	"	"	31/11	"	"	7 ¹ / ₄ d	"	"
"	heavy 50 lb.	(" 1/6)	"						
"	trade 46 lb. ewes	(" 9/-)	"	31/3	"	"	6d	"	"

/Fourth ...

Fourth Week

Good trade	42 lb. wethers	(skin 4/6)	made	28/8	each	or	7d	per	lb.
" "	46 lb. ewes	(" 9/6)	"	31/10	"	"	5 ³ / ₄ d	"	"
" heavy	56 lb. wethers	(" 15/-)	"	46/10	"	"	6 ³ / ₄ d	"	"

Closing Sales

Good trade	45 lb. wethers	(skin 1/-)	made	28/10	each	or	7 ¹ / ₄ d	per	lb.
" "	38 lb. ewes	(" 9/6)	"	27/10	"	"	5 ³ / ₄ d	"	"

Lower cost of mutton.

Operators paid less per pound for mutton throughout July heavy wethers realising to 7¹/₄d and light to 7¹/₂d per lb. compared 7³/₄d and 8d per lb., respectively, in June. For the most part good quality heavy wethers were obtained at from 5³/₄d to 7d and light from 6d to 7¹/₄d per lb. Ewe mutton ranged in price from 4³/₄d to 5³/₄d for heavy and from 5¹/₄d to 6d per lb. for light. Plain to medium grade carcasses were secured at relatively lower prices.

Some exceptionally good quality heavy wethers were disposed of at 55/- while many sales were effected at from 40/- to 46/- per head. Ewes sold to 40/- per head with a fair proportion of sales at from 30/- to 36/-. On occasions prime shorn sheep made up to 32/- per head.

Better showing of lambs.

There was a much better representation of lambs, a total of 121,863 head being offered, or approximately 28,000 head more than during June. Summer lambs comprised a fairly large proportion of the yardings but suckers were more plentiful. Although medium trade descriptions were well in evidence good to prime grades (chiefly heavy descriptions) were more numerous. The suckers included some drafts of light weight and medium quality but also some very attractive weighty lots. Quality generally was variable.

Lamb market firm.

The lamb market did not fluctuate to such an extent as in June. At opening sales a firmer tendency was evident although prices generally showed little appreciable change until about mid-July when all descriptions were somewhat cheaper. Rates then remained virtually unchanged until the end of the month when a better inquiry resulted in values advancing. Sales listed hereunder indicate generally the trend of the market over the period.

First Week

Good trade	34 lb. lambs	(skin 3/6)	made	30/10	each	or	9 ³ / ₄ d	per	lb.
" heavy	38 lb. "	(" 6/6)	"	36/6	"	"	9 ¹ / ₂ d	"	"

/Second...

Second Week

Good trade 30 lb. lambs (skin 5/6) made 29/6 each or 9⁵/₄d per lb.
 " " " heavy 44 lb. " (" 7/6) " 40/10 " " 9d " "

Third Week

Good trade 32 lb. lambs (skin 4/6) made 29/- each or 9¹/₄d per lb.
 " " " heavy 46 lb. " (" 10/-) " 40/7 " " 8d " "

Fourth Week

Good trade 34 lb. lambs (skin 4/6) made 30/4 each or 9d per lb.
 Prime heavy 50 lb. " (" 8/-) " 42/1 " " 8¹/₄d " "

Closing Sales

Prime heavy 39 lb. suckers (skin 3/6) made 34/6 each or 9¹/₂d per lb.
 Good " 44 lb. lambs (" 9/-) " 38/4 " " 8d " "

Cheaper lamb.

The high prices paid for lamb in June were not maintained, lower values ruling during July when lamb cost to 10¹/₄d per lb. compared with 1/- per lb. in the preceding month. For the most part, good light lamb was worth from 8¹/₄d to 9¹/₄d with odd lots at 9¹/₂d to 10d per lb. Heavy grades cost from 7³/₄d to 9³/₄d but a fair proportion was secured at 7³/₄d to 8³/₄d per lb. At the close of the period, more suckers were offered than for some time past and buyers paid from 9d to 9³/₄d per lb. for this class of lamb. Hoggets were in short supply but when available good quality made from 7d to 7³/₄d with odd lots of prime at 8d to 8¹/₄d per lb.

Prime heavy lambs realised up to 48/- per head, while sales frequently were made at from 40/- to 45/- each, although good quality lambs mostly sold at 24/- to 38/- per head.

Pig supplies maintained.

Supplies of pigs were well maintained, the numbers submitted at auction during July aggregating 8,246 head, including 5753 received by rail. The total sold privately, 1,156 head, showed a sharp increase.

Trend to heavy baconers.

Baconers continued to comprise the bulk of the offerings and although quality was variable it was chiefly fairly good. All weights were represented but during the period an increased tendency to forward more weighty descriptions was noticed. At the closing sale extra heavy baconers made a particularly good showing. As mentioned in the July Review, export operations are now restricted to pigs dressing 80 to 103 lb. and 180 to 204. This has resulted in /an ...

an improved demand for heavy baconers even though production has increased.

The market during the period showed considerable improvement while price fluctuations were not marked. Carcase equivalent rates ranged generally from 9d to 9½d per lb. but 9¾d was secured for many heavy descriptions, particularly those dressing between 160 and 180 lb. On a per head basis prices of pigs dressing 180 to 200 lb. ranged to £7.9.6. As a general rule values declined in cases where baconers exceeded 200 lb.

Steady demand for backfatters.

Except on the final sale day in July, backfatters made a satisfactory showing and comprised generally light and medium weights of fair to good trade standard. The offerings usually included several prime heavy pigs which sold to £13.13.6 per head.

One boar pig realised £13.1.0. This animal dressed 812 lb. and was probably the heaviest ever forwarded to Homebush.

Average rates were about on a par with those of the previous month although values fluctuated somewhat. Prices per pound ranged from 4½d to 6½d. The market was strongest at closing.

Irregular market for porkers.

Consignments of porkers were variable in the extreme, both from the point of numbers arriving and quality. Demand also fluctuated considerably, and was very poor early in the period when weather conditions were against store buying. Inquiry, however, was particularly strong at the close of the month. Rates for extra light descriptions ranged from 6d to 15d per lb. and for heavier sorts from 7½d to 10½d per lb. was paid.

During the period the wholesale price of some lines of bacon was increased a little and rates for tropical cure lines were reduced slightly.

Lighter cattle supplies.

Truckings of cattle during July, 1944, were more regular than those of the previous month although the aggregate for the nine sale days was only 11,840 head, of which 1,695 were auctioned in the store section.

The general quality was most variable and, on the whole, only fair. There was a general shortage of prime weighty stock and on several occasions the pennings comprised chiefly small beasts either in poor condition or indifferently bred.

The general position was worse than during the corresponding period of 1943, reflecting the very unsatisfactory

pastoral conditions which have obtained for some time now. Rainfall generally was again greatly below requirements and at the close of July the outlook was serious over a large area of the State.

Introduction of buying quota.

During the period, action was taken by the authorities to introduce a quota system amongst operators generally throughout the State with a view to reducing prices on the hoof to a level more compatible with wholesale ceiling levels. The position now is that the amount of meat which the consumer may purchase is governed by coupon rationing, the retail butcher is on a quota as to the quantity of meat he may secure from a wholesaler, and the wholesaler is on a quota based on the quantity of supplies available. Supplies available in any district include carcasses brought into that district during the week as well as the amount of live stock available for sale. The basis for arriving at quotas is weight, and the average weight of a carcass of beef has been determined at 480 lb. If, for instance, an operator purchased 100 bullocks of 700 lb. weight during the base period week and the total quantity of beef expected to become available is estimated at 50%, that operator must, in effect, restrict his purchases for the week to a total of 24,000 lb. and not 35,000. Any quantity of meat slaughtered in excess of the determined quota may be acquired at ceiling rates. Numbers of stock arriving at Homebush declined following the announcement of the introduction of the system and prices of good quality cattle advanced.

Bullocks scarce and dear.

Consignments of bullocks were variable but, for the most part, they were limited and at times extremely scarce. Pennings generally comprised good trade light and medium weights, heavy descriptions generally being in odd lots only. A strong demand was maintained and, as would be expected with limited supplies and irregular competition from outside buyers, values fluctuated considerably. Rates, however, were always at a relatively high level and the lowest maximum quote for any weight grade was 58/- per 100 lb.

The peak level was reached on 24th July when medium weight bullocks were priced at 66/- to 72/- and light at 63/- to 69/- per 100 lb. These prices were the highest for many years.

Light steers predominate.

Only on a few occasions did steers make a good showing and on some sale days the pennings comprised chiefly medium to fair trade lightweights with prime descriptions scarce. However, quite a number of prime heavy drafts were noticed throughout the month.

The market was very firm and quotations for prime /descriptions...

descriptions generally ranged to 60/- and 63/- per 100 lb. On the 24th they reached 71/- per 100 lb., a record for recent years.

Keen demand for cows.

Pennings of cows were variable in the extreme, both as to numbers available and quality. On some occasions dairy breeds comprised the great bulk of the pennings while on some sale days heavy cows of good trade quality were available in sufficient numbers to offset the shortage of bullocks.

A consignment of 206 head arrived from Queensland. They were in good condition and brought very high prices. One pen, weighing on the average about 600 lb., realised £16.11.0 per head, or 55/- per 100 lb.

A very firm market ruled and values ranged to 52/- and 53/- per 100 lb. during the greater part of the period for both light and heavy descriptions. During the third week, however, rates ranged to 57/- for heavy and 56/- for light. On a per head basis values reached £20.16.0.

Firm market for heifers.

Generally, heifers were in fair supply although quality varied considerably. Prime sorts for the most part were difficult to secure. A strong demand continued to rule and on some sale days quotations again ranged to 63/- per 100 lb.

Prime vealers scarce.

Vealers were well represented during the period but except on one or two occasions quality was only fair, prime descriptions being difficult to secure. A feature of the month was the large number of small vealers forward.

The market fluctuated but values were always high and on the weakest market quotations ranged from 54/- to 65/- per 100 lb. Rates generally reached 70/- with 72/- the highest for the period.

High cattle values.

The extreme rates of recent years noted either in August, 1943, or June, 1944, were exceeded during July in the case of bullocks, steers and cows, and equalled for heifers.

G.C. & J.W.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SALES
AT CITY MUNICIPAL MARKETS, SYDNEY.

Values of navel oranges weaker.

Fairly large quantities of navel oranges were received from coastal sources and towards the close of the month consignments from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area increased considerably. Demand was variable; large fruit sold well but there was a restricted inquiry at times for counts above 150. It was possible to obtain maximum rates for coastal fruit for sizes up to 96 to the case, but 113s. to 125s. had to be sold at lower levels. Generally, values apart from the few large sizes were easier.

There was evidence of frost injury in some of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit and, as a result, prices had a weaker trend. It was difficult to obtain above 16/- per bushel during the latter part of July while the general range was from 12/- with plain grades lower.

The market for local mandarins improves.

There was a good inquiry for Queensland Glen Retreat mandarins early in the period and up to 30/- per bushel was paid for selected sizes. Towards the close, however, the fruit which arrived was small and in many instances over-mature and disposals had to be made at the best prices obtainable.

Demand for local Emperors was quiet while the supplies of Queensland Glens of good quality were available but there was a marked improvement following the decline in the condition of the Queensland fruit and values firmed for choice, large sizes.

Larger stocks of grapefruit.

Supplies of grapefruit were more plentiful. Inquiry was somewhat restricted and some packs, particularly of small sized fruit, were neglected by buyers. Purchases for factory purposes, however, enabled the bulk of stocks to be cleared. Apart from choice packs, the price range of other qualities was fairly wide.

Quiet demand for lemons.

Trading in lemons generally was limited, but as only small quantities were received values for the most part were reasonably steady, although well below the ceiling level.

Rates for apples advance.

On 1st July, the maximum rate for apples was increased to 19/- per bushel. Demand generally was very satisfactory, particularly for fancy grades. Supplies from within New South Wales in the main were light, especially large Granny Smiths. The variety mentioned /sold...

sold very well and some large sized good grade fruit realised the ceiling rate of 19/-. Few Delicious were received. Occasional consignments of Rome Beauty and Democrat were on offer and selected sizes realised to the maximum of 19/-.

Interstate consignments comprised the bulk of supplies, Tasmania, Victoria, South and Western Australia contributing. The principal varieties on offer included Jonathan, Rome Beauty, Delicious, Granny Smith, Democrat, Crofton, Cleopatra and Sturmer. Request was keen for Delicious and other red varieties (apart from Democrats) providing the quality was satisfactory. Some of the Rome Beauty packs were over-mature and sales had to be effected at the best prices offering. There was a slackening in inquiry for Tasmanian Democrats and values were lowered in an endeavour to stimulate sales.

Granny Smiths from three States were obtainable. Western Australian packs were in limited supply but fairly large quantities from Tasmania were forward. Rates for Western Australian lots were mostly at the maximum of 19/- and this price was obtained for some of the Tasmanian and Victorian consignments.

Keen request for pears.

The market for pears was very firm and only the Keiffers, faulty or very small fruit failed to realise the maximum of 20/- per bushel which was increased from 18/- on 1st July. Victoria again provided the bulk of supplies, which included Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Josephine, Beurre Bosc, Winter Nelis, Glou Morceau, Beurre d'Anjou and Keiffers. Receipts of Packham's Triumph declined considerably, only small quantities being available after mid-July, while supplies of Winter Coles ceased about that time.

Only small quantities of Packham's Triumph and Winter Cole were received from local sources and towards the close of the month both varieties were practically unobtainable. Some Josephine and Winter Nelis were on offer and little difficulty was experienced in effecting sales at the ceiling price where quality was satisfactory.

Pineapples clear slowly.

Bi-weekly consignments of pineapples from Queensland ranged from about 4,300 to slightly over 5,000 cases. Demand generally was somewhat restricted and stocks were not cleared between consignments. Despite the limited request it was possible to obtain the ceiling price of 25/- for a few special brands, but for a portion of the month the greater proportion of sales did not exceed 22/- per case. The market had a firmer tone towards the close of July when a higher ratio of sales was made at the maximum level.

Bananas lightly supplied.

Only small consignments of bananas reached the market.
/Inquiry

Inquiry was keen and all fair average quality lines realised the maximum price.

Firm rates rule for passionfruit.

Passionfruit were lightly stocked and as a result prices were maintained at fairly high levels throughout the month.

Peas in short supply.

Throughout July, the receipts of peas from all sources were considerably below trade requirements. Daily consignments ranged from below 100 to around 500 bags; generally the daily total was between 200 and 300 bags. As the market normally will absorb well over 1,000 bags per day it will be readily realised that an extremely keen demand ruled at all times and agents had little difficulty in securing the maximum price of 23/4 per bushel for any reasonably good quality lots. On occasions, some badly frosted lines had to be sold to the best advantage but the quantity represented only a very small percentage of supplies.

Consignments of beans decline.

The bean market was dependent on the North Coast and Queensland for supplies but consignments were insufficient to meet the demand except on Monday, 10th July when over 3,000 packages came to hand. The quality of this relatively large supply left much to be desired as many lines were affected by breakdown; prices had to be reduced to enable clearances to be made and some losses occurred. Receipts following the date mentioned showed a considerable decline, as a result of heavy frosts throughout the growing areas. Breakdown persisted until about the middle of the month; but there was an improvement in quality later.

With the reduced quantities coming to hand, the market was very firm; buyers were unable to secure sufficient for their needs and both medium and choice grade lines sold at the ceiling price of 20/- per bushel.

Cauliflowers in request.

The limited supplies of peas and beans were a factor in creating a generally good inquiry for cauliflowers during the greater part of the month. On a few occasions, however, the market was somewhat quiet, particularly during the week ended 21st July when heavy supplies were forward and prices had to be lowered to enable clearances to be effected. Rates for choice heads reached relatively high levels at times, as much as 36/- per dozen being obtained. Values were very firm during the closing week and on most days prices ranged to 30/- per dozen.

/Fairly ...

Fairly heavy supplies of Queensland tomatoes.

Large consignments of tomatoes were received from Queensland (mainly the Bowen district), weekly quotas ranging between 23,000 and 30,000 half-cases. Demand generally was satisfactory although towards the close of the month there was a falling-off and lower prices had to be accepted. During the greater part of July rates were maintained around 14/- to 16/- per half-case for choice packs with a few special lines realising higher prices. Repacked Queensland tomatoes sold up to the maximum of 20/- per half-case on occasions.

Supplies from local sources were light and comprised small consignments from the North Coast and from areas within the County of Cumberland. A few choice, coloured packs sold to 20/- per half-case on some days, but the greater proportion was disposed of at lower levels.

Prices for cabbages fluctuate.

Supplies of cabbages varied from light to fairly heavy and values fluctuated accordingly. At times rates ranged to 14/- per dozen while on other occasions it was difficult to obtain 8/- per dozen for the best lots available. During the last week of July the market was firm and rates for choicest heads were maintained around 12/- to 14/- per dozen.

Lettuce scarce and dear.

There was a scarcity of lettuce and prices reached high levels, as much as 24/- per case being obtained.

Loose carrots plentiful.

Large quantities of loose carrots were on offer, including interstate supplies which were made available by Food Supply to agents for sale to retailers at 10/- per cwt., who in turn were able to sell to the public at 7 lbs. for one shilling. At the close of the month interstate lots were practically cleared but consignments from within New South Wales were being well maintained. Rates varied according to quality for New South Wales offerings, only choice washed lots realising the ceiling price of 25/- per cwt.

Rhubarb in request.

There was a good inquiry for rhubarb and rates advanced appreciably, choice long varieties selling to 14/- per dozen bunches.

Beetroot scarce.

Bunched beetroot was in limited supply and values were firm at maximum levels.

ALEXANDRIA RAILWAY GOODS YARD
AND SUSSEX STREET SALES.

Tasmanian potatoes in heavy supply.

Consignments of local potatoes to Alexandria Goods Yard increased to 2,839 bags as compared with 1,011 bags last month. The bulk of the supplies was received from the Crookwell district and consisted of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 grades, while 780 bags of seed Factors were also included. Rates during the period were unchanged. Wholesalers' prices for No. 1 grade were £7.17.6 with Nos. 2 and 3 grades and Chats £7.5.0 per ton. Primary merchants' rates to wholesalers are £1.5.0 per ton less than the figures quoted.

Arrivals from Victoria showed a considerable falling-off, 11,931 bags coming to hand as against 52,947 bags in June. These consisted chiefly of No. 1 grade Carmans and Snowflakes; the bulk was made available for general trading, only 3,520 bags being reconsigned for essential services. It was necessary to regrade about 200 bags owing to "glassy ends".

Supplies in Sussex Street from Tasmania were exceptionally heavy, stocks aggregating 180,540 bags, representing nearly double the total received in June. Consignments consisted mostly of Brownells, Bismarcks, Snowflakes, Arranchiefs and Up-to-Dates. There were fairly large quantities made available for general trading purposes, the balance going to the Federal Authorities. Wholesalers' price to retailers was at the unchanged rate of £7.17.6 per ton.

Local swedes scarce - increased Tasmanian supplies.

Arrivals at Alexandria were limited to 425 bags from local centres. Despite these reduced supplies rates were lower owing to arrivals from other sources. Opening sales were effected at £9 but later prices were reduced to £8 with large sizes £6.10.0 per ton.

In Sussex Street, consignments from Tasmania showed a marked increase; 14,365 bags were received as against 6,405 in June. In the first half of the period clearances were made at £9 but later demand was very slow even at the reduced price of £8 per ton.

Exceptionally light supplies of carrots.

There were no supplies of carrots available at Alexandria, while Tasmanian consignments to Sussex Street comprised only 790 bags, which were disposed of at £8.0.0 per ton.

Tasmanian parsnips sell at firmer rates.

There were no arrivals at Alexandria but Tasmanian supplies in Sussex Street increased to 3,659 bags. Opening sales were made at £12, subsequently reduced to £10, but in the last week

of the period demand improved and rates advanced to £14 per ton.

Beetroot.

A consignment of 249 bags arrived from Tasmania and brought £18 per ton.

Pumpkins well supplied.

Supplies arriving at Alexandria were 99½ trucks, consisting of 23½ trucks from local centres and 76 trucks from Queensland. A few sales of Queensland lines were made early at £8 but stocks mostly sold at £9 to £10. Locals sold early at £10 but later £8.10.0 was accepted. The market at closing, however, was firmer, sales being effected at £11 per ton.

Sussex Street consignments from the North Coast continued light, 83 bags realising £8 to £9 per ton.

Arrivals during the period included 5 trucks of locals at Darling Harbour which realised £9 to £10, and 3 trucks from Queensland which were disposed of at £9 per ton.

Victorian onions very scarce.

The only supplies of onions at Alexandria were of Victorian origin. These amounted to 247 bags of brown table lots, but were not made available for general trading purposes. Receipts at Darling Harbour landing were also very light, 4 trucks of brown table varieties selling readily at £18 to £18.10.0, with one truck of brown pickling onions at £21 per ton.

Oaten chaff plentiful and values ease.

Supplies of oaten chaff at Alexandria showed a marked increase when 227 trucks came to hand which represented the largest quantity received since last October. In the first half of the period rates remained firm, the bulk of the supplies selling at maximum rates. Sales were recorded as follows:- Medium £7.6.8 to £7.10.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £8.10.0, prime £8.15.0 to £9.0.0 per ton. Later, owing to continued heavy supplies, rates were reduced for other than choice lines, closing values being:- Medium £6.10.0 to £7.5.0; Good sound £7.17.6 to £8.0.0; Prime £8.0.0 to £9.0.0; Choice £9.0.0 per ton. There were 21 trucks submitted at auction, inferior and medium lots selling early at £6.10.0 to £7.10.0, and good sound at £8.0.0. Later, stained lots realised £5.6.8, medium £5.11.8 to £6.5.0 and good sound £6.10.0 and £6.11.8 per ton.

Heavy supplies of wheaten chaff.

Receipts of wheaten chaff also showed a marked increase, the supplies (41 trucks) being the heaviest since last November. In the first half of the period rates continued firm, the bulk of the

/sales ...

sales being effected at maximum rates, good sound realising £8.10.0 and prime £9.0.0. Subsequently, clearances of medium lots were made at £6.0.0 to £6.10.0 with good sound at £8.10.0 and prime at £8.15.0 to £9.0.0 per ton.

Four trucks were offered at auction, inferior moving out at £4.11.8 to £4.15.0 and medium at £5.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne chaff in demand - supplies increase.

Arrivals of lucerne chaff increased by 17 trucks when 59 trucks came to hand. Little change in rates was apparent and most lots sold readily. Prices were recorded as follows:- Inferior £7.10.0 to £9.0.0, medium £9.10.0 to £10.0.0, good sound £11.10.0 to £12.0.0, prime £11.10.0 to £12.15.0, choice £13.5.0 to £13.10.0 per ton. At auction, 1 truck of good sound brought £10.0.0 per ton.

Lucerne threshings and pods.

Consignments of lucerne threshings amounted to 6 trucks, which sold at £7.0.0 to £9.0.0. One truck of lucerne pods was also available and sold at £8.10.0 per ton.

Lucerne hay again plentiful.

Arrivals of lucerne hay from the Maitland district showed a falling off, supplies consisting of 55 trucks. A good demand continued to rule and clearances were as follows:- Dry lots £7.10.0 to £9.10.0, inferior £5.10.0; new soft green £5.10.0 to £6.10.0 with few very soft lines at £4.0.0 to £5.0.0 per ton.

Receipts from other centres showed a marked increase, 73½ trucks coming to hand, including 10½ trucks of derrick pressed. There was a good inquiry for prime lines but values for lower grades showed a downward tendency. Sales were recorded as follow:- Inferior £5.5.0 to £7.0.0, medium £7.0.0 to £8.10.0, good sound £8.0.0 to £10.0.0, prime £10.0.0 to £11.15.0, choice £12.5.0 to £12.10.0 per ton. Derrick pressed lots of inferior and medium quality brought £5.0.0 to £6.0.0 for medium, while good sound sold at £9.15.0.

Oaten hay consignments decline considerably.

Arrivals of oaten hay comprised 24½ trucks of rack and 15 trucks of derrick pressed. There was also 1 truck of wheaten and 1 truck of mixed oaten and wheaten. Rack lots were in request, early sales being at the following prices:- Good sound £8.10.0, prime £10.0.0 to £10.5.0, choice £10.15.0 per ton. Derrick pressed lots of medium quality sold at £4.10.0 to £4.15.0, good sound at £5.10.0 and prime at £6.0.0 to £7.10.0 per ton. Damaged wheaten hay realised £4.0.0, while good sound oaten and wheaten hay mixed made £4.10.0 per ton.

/Straw

Straw in demand - rates firmer.

Receipts of straw totalled 71 trucks which included 46½ trucks of oaten and 24½ trucks of wheaten. Values were firmer at closing, stained oaten lines selling at £5.0.0 and prime at £7.0.0 to £7.5.0, with prime wheaten at £7.0.0 to £7.5.0 per ton.

Wheat again in light supply.

Consignments of wheat aggregated 21 trucks. The bulk consisted of f.a.q. wheat which sold at 3/8 and 3/9 per bushel. Only 1 truck of under quality was submitted at auction, pick-ups realising 3/3 per bushel.

Maize scarcer but prices lower.

Arrivals of maize at Alexandria declined to 9,692 bags, comprising 3,200 bags of yellow and 1,254 bags of white from local centres and 5,208 bags of yellow and 30 bags of white from Queensland. Owing to more favourable weather conditions in some parts of the State rates gradually declined, and at closing sales were made at 6/11 per bushel.

At auction, yellow lines sold at 6/11 and 6/9, weevilly at 6/6, immature at 6/4 and 6/8, while white lots sold at 7/4 per bushel.

Queensland yellow brought 7/2 and 7/- and 7/5½d and 7/6 at early auctions, with red lines at 7/4 to 7/9 per bushel.

Deliveries to Sussex Street from the North Coast were also lighter, 1,067 bags of yellow and 80 bags of white coming to hand. Clearances of yellow were effected at 7/6 but later 7/- per bushel was accepted. White lots were sold at 7/6 per bushel.

Oat consignments very limited.

Arrivals of oats at Alexandria were exceptionally light, consignments consisting of 6 trucks. There was an exceptionally keen demand but these supplies were consigned to private buyers.

Note:

National Security (Prices) Regulation No. 1605, gazetted 10th July, 1944: Wholesale ceiling rates for the following produce sold ex trucks at Alexandria are -

- Oats - Feed 3/3, milling 3/5, seed 3/10½d per bushel.
- Hay - Oaten and wheaten £7.15.0 per ton.
- Chaff - Oaten and wheaten £9.0.0 per ton.

Regulation No. 1617 - 18th July, 1944 -
Maximum prices for sales by growers for Maize, Sydney -
Yellow 7/3, White 7/9 per bushel.

C.H.F.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VARIOUS COMMODITIES
IN SYDNEY (N.S.W.) DURING JULY, 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:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>July, 1944</u>	<u>31st August, 1939</u>
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.	169/4d (")	161/2d
Cheese:		
Loaf - per lb.	1/0½d (")	11d
Large - " "	1/- (")	10½d
Special Brands per lb.	1/1d to 1/3½d "	1/2d

	<u>July, 1944</u>		<u>29th August, 1939</u>	
	From	To	From	To
Pigs (Abattoir Sales): Good to prime per head -				
Porkers -				
Extra light	15/6	45/6	31/6	40/6
Light	24/6	50/6	39/6	44/6
Medium weight	41/6	70/6	43/6	57/6
Heavy	57/6	73/6	50/6	54/6
Baconers	£3.13.6	£7.9.6	60/6	75/6
Backfatters	£5.5.6	£13.13.6	£4.5.0	£8.10.0

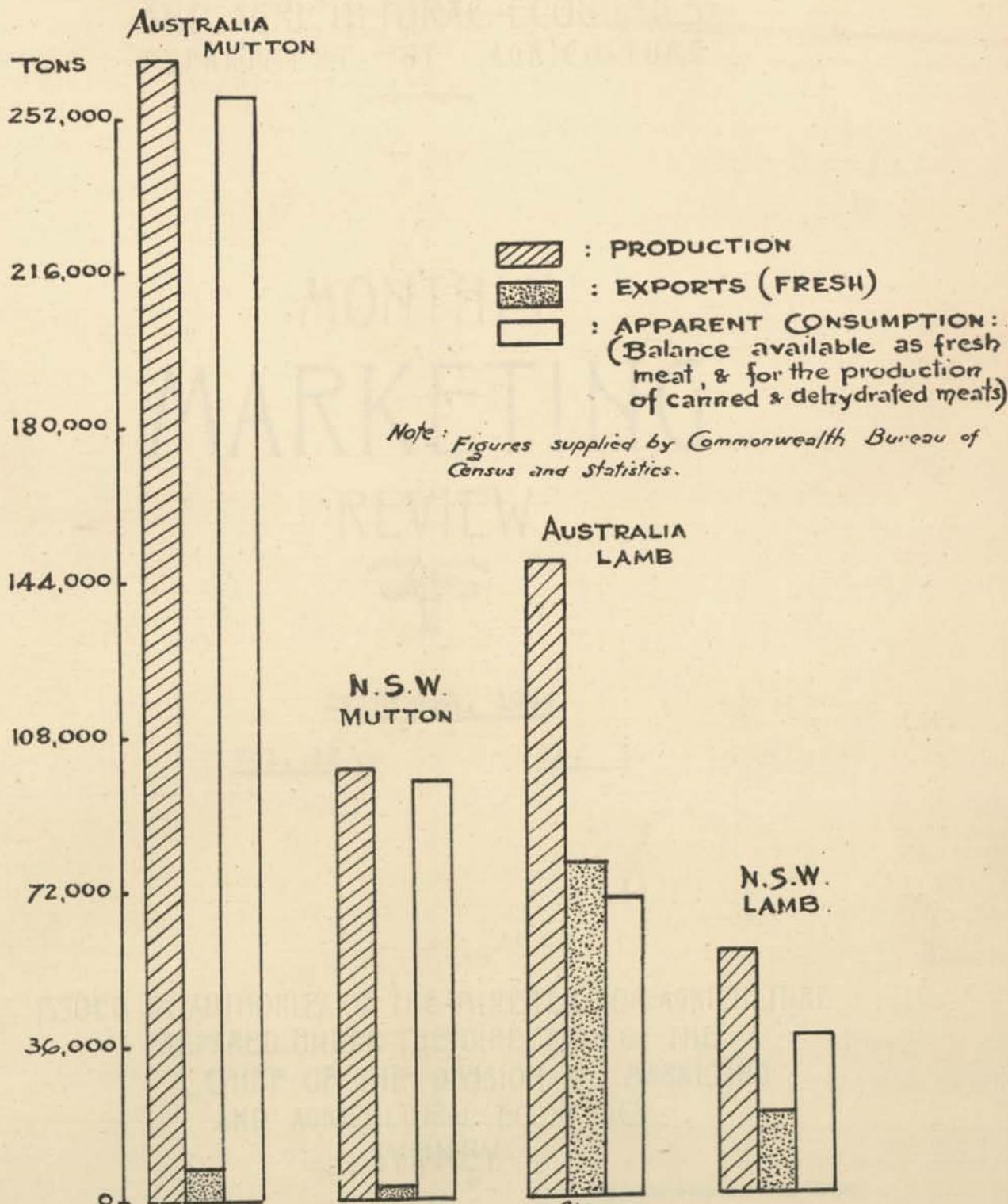
Note: The pig sales nearest 31st August, 1939, were those held on 29th August, 1939.

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MUTTON AND LAMB

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PRODUCTION, EXPORTS AND APPARENT CONSUMPTION IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES FOR 1943



Drawn: E. Shannon.
Checked: G. Bolaman.

H. Hynes.
Chief, Division of Marketing and Agri. Economics.