

## New South Wales

### Tamworth Sheep

There was a small increase in both the sheep and lamb offerings, 1800 lambs and 1000 sheep. The quality of the lambs showed a great variation as did condition. There were a number of lines of very well finished heavy and extra heavy weights penned. The usual buyers were in attendance along with a couple of strong restocker orders.

That variation in quality played a role in price change through the lamb market, more noticeable in the restockers. Market trends were cheaper for the most part. The quality accounting for significant price change in places. The better the quality, the less the price fall in the lambs to restockers, while the plain condition light weights were close to firm. Heavy and extra heavy weight lambs sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend with some weight related price improvement.

There was strong processor demand for sheep of all classes, however it was strongest for the well finished lines. Again quality and weight accounted for most of the price change in a market that experienced little change in trends.

### Dubbo Sheep

It was another good quality yarding with a very good selection of well finished heavy weight lambs along with odd pens of neat trade weights. There were some good Merino lambs yarded along with fair numbers of light weight lambs lacking finish.

Light weight lambs to the processors were around firm with the 12kg to 18kg 2 scores selling from \$140 to \$168/head. Trade lambs were \$6 to \$10 cheaper selling from \$176 to \$227 to average from 940c to 970c/kg cwt. Heavy weight lambs were \$17 to \$22 cheaper with the 24kg to 30kg lambs selling from \$215 to \$294, while the lambs over 30kg sold from \$306 to \$320/head. Merino lambs were \$11 cheaper with the trade weights selling from \$171 to \$183, while the heavy weight Merinos sold from \$210 to \$218/head. Restocker lambs were \$8 to \$14 cheaper with the better types selling from \$137 to \$157, while the plainer young lambs sold from \$92 to \$130/head. Hoggets sold to \$218/head.

It was a mixed quality yarding of sheep where the light and medium weight sheep were \$8 to \$13 cheaper and the better heavy weight sheep were \$3 to \$6/head cheaper. Merino ewes sold from \$97 to \$214 while the crossbred ewes sold from \$136 to \$246/head. Large lines of Merino wethers sold from \$150 to \$200/head. The restockers were very active in the grown sheep market paying from \$90 to \$122 for light weight Merino ewes and up to \$142/head for better medium weight ewes. The restockers also paid from \$172 to \$215/head for crossbred ewes.

### Inverell Sheep

There were 300 lambs and 678 grown sheep, to total 978, 600 less than two weeks ago. Sheep and lamb quality lifted to see a generally dearer market for all categories. All the regular buyers attended for what was another sale with limited numbers for all grades.

Light trade lambs saw dearer trends, as did the trade lambs, which showed a significant rise in trends. Medium lambs sold from \$170 to \$200, heavy lambs also selling to dearer trends, with a lift in quality, selling from \$231 to \$265/head. Hoggets sold to \$214/head.

Grown sheep sold to dearer trends with crossbred ewes to \$240 and Dorpers to \$160/head. Medium weight ewes made from \$124 to \$240/head. A pen of heavy wethers weighing 67kg, sold to \$224/head.

## Victoria

### Bendigo Sheep

About 27,000 lambs were yarded as selling resumed after the Labour Day long weekend. Quality remained very good, with a lot of lambs still coming in off grain. Two distinct buying patterns emerged based around lamb size. Heavy export lambs, particularly those above 30kg cwt, averaged \$20/head cheaper than a fortnight ago. However competition for good domestic lambs remained firm and even improved as the auction progressed, amid reports meat is currently in high demand at supermarkets and butcher shops as consumers stockpile food over fears about Coronavirus. The supply of light weight lambs was again limited, and restocker and processor demand for suitable MK stock kept prices for these lambs firm to dearer.

Five pens of extra heavy shorn lambs sold above \$300 to top at \$330, but as a rule, most export processors were reluctant to push above \$290/head. It created some erratic trends and price estimates for the heaviest lambs showed a wide spread of 800c to 900c/kg to settle at averages of 830c to 840c/kg cwt over the main lines. Lambs suiting domestic orders found better support, and these still tracked over 900c/kg cwt. 22-24kg cwt lambs in short skins sold from \$206 to \$238 to average \$224/head. Good Merino lambs showing weight and fat cover made from \$204 to \$267/head at an estimated 850c to 870c/kg cwt. Overall any reasonable slaughter lamb above 22kg still made over \$200/head. The better bred lines of light weight lambs sold from mostly \$130 to \$180/head, with some high carcass estimates again recorded for lambs selling back to the paddock.

Bidding for mutton was buoyant despite a mixed yarding that did offer some good lines of Merinos and crossbred but included a lot of smaller penlots of varied quality. A northern exporter again dominated bidding for heavy processing sheep, with big crossbred ewes making from \$200 to a top of \$269; Merino wethers sold from \$225 to \$280; and heavy Merino ewes made from \$220 to \$276/head. It was estimated the good runs of mutton were costing processors over 700c, hitting 800c/kg cwt at times.

### National Sheep Prices

Price Stock Category	Weekly Avg.	Change	High	Low	Clearance	Avg Weight (Kgs)
Merino Wether Lambs	\$147	+\$5	\$194	\$100	69%	35
Merino Ewe Lambs	\$168	-\$42	\$227	\$101	67%	36
NSM Merino Ewe Hoggets	\$238	-\$7	\$265	\$170	53%	43
NSM Merino Ewes	\$207	-\$5	\$273	\$156	49%	51
Scanned in Lamb Merino Ewes	\$260	-\$56	\$355	\$191	60%	58
Border Leicester/Merino Ewe Lambs	\$251	-\$16	\$312	\$200	53%	37
Scanned in Lamb Border Leicester/Merino Ewes	\$339	\$339	\$421	\$290	61%	71
Crossbred Lambs (c/kg)	516	+6	604	444	94%	35

*Provided by AuctionsPlus 17/03/2020*

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