



Livestock Market Report

Tamworth Sheep and Cattle

There was a small reduction in lamb numbers with the sheep supply remaining the same. There was a good supply of heavyweight lambs while there were no extra heavyweights penned. There were also a couple of pens of very good new season lambs carrying plenty of weight for their age. The usual buyers were in attendance.

The new season lambs sold to cheaper trends. Lightweight old lambs saw a mostly firm market trend for the well finished lines. The 3 score lambs up to 24kg estimated dressed weight also experienced little change. The heavier weights up to 26kg sold to a cheaper trend of \$6/head along with some quality related price variations. The heaviest weight class of the day remained firm.

It was a plainer condition penning of sheep for the most part with limited supplies of well finished sheep available. The market for ewes was generally firm, while the Merino wethers on offer varied a little for weight. This affecting some price change.

There was an increase in numbers despite a change in season just around the corner. Producers opting out rather than taking a chance on a Spring break. All categories were represented, however the bulk of the offering were cows and yearlings. The quality of the offering was fair to good with some very good quality young cattle available. The condition of the offering was also fair to good with quite a few crop and supplementary fed cattle penned. The full field of regular buyers were in attendance, some not operating to their usual capacity.

Market trends through the young cattle were generally cheaper. In some classes breed and or quality did have an effect on price change. Medium and heavyweight yearling feeder steers sold to a cheaper trend of 5c to 13c/kg. There were similar trends for similar weight yearling heifers to feed. Lightweight young cattle to restockers saw weaker demand from local buyers, however there were some Southern restocker orders active. There was reduced competition on well finished heavyweight yearlings with the market trend significantly cheaper for both steers and heifers.

There were insufficient heavy grown steers to quote. The reduced competition was reflected in the market for well finished grown heifers with the market trend significantly cheaper. There were cheaper trends through the cow market. The plainer condition cows were least affected. Well finished cows experienced large price falls with the competition not as strong. There was a large number of bulls penned, with quite a few young bulls. This being a reflection of the number of cows that have been sold.

Inverell Sheep and Cattle

There was a larger yarding of 3,901 head, with sheep numbers making up the main increase. Around 1,729 lambs were yarded consisting mainly of trade weights and a few pens of light weights. Quality was fairly good, although there was some lambs showing some dryness.

The market eased slightly with lambs selling \$7/head cheaper and more in places, although odd pens of well finished supplementary fed lambs sold close to firm. Heavy lambs sold to a top of \$215, and dorper lambs sold up to \$210/head. The few hoggets topped at \$140/head.

The yarding of mutton was mixed, although there was some good runs of ewes and wethers through the sale. A fair percentage of mutton were shorn. Ewes sold to a top of \$224 on a easier market, while wethers sold to \$220/head.

Numbers declined for a yarding of 1,732 head of cattle. The yarding consisted of a large offering of yearlings and weaner cattle, while cows dominated the grown cattle. Quality of young cattle was very mixed, with a large percentage in plain store condition, however there were several runs of well bred cattle through the sale.

The market saw little change, with restocker weaner steers selling to a top of 274c, while the heifer portion made to 216c/kg. Feeder and background yearling steers sold on a solid market, especially for the well bred steers, although the plain conditioned and cross bred steers attracted less competition. Medium weight feeder steers sold to average 272c, with the top sale making to 313c/kg. Feeder heifers followed a similar pattern as the steers, with the feeder heifers selling to 252c, while the few trade yearling heifers sold to a top of 267c/kg.

The yarding of export cattle consisted mainly of cows, along with a fair penning of heifers, while there was only a few pens of grown steers offered. Grown steers sold to a top of 308c for a single pen, while heifers sold up to 275c/kg. The cow market was either side of firm, with light 1 and 2 score cows selling from 60c to 185c, while 3 score medium weights averaged 226c and heavy cows sold to a top of 256c/kg. Heavy bulls to processors sold to a top of 279c, while live export bulls made to 292c/kg.

Gunnedah Cattle

There was an increase in supply. Yearlings well supplied and the cow sell off continued. There were large numbers of lightweight yearlings penned, along with a good supply of mediumweights, while heavy feeder numbers were limited. The quality and condition of the offering was fair to good. The majority of the forward condition cattle having had access to crop. The usual buyers were in attendance and operating.

Market trends varied through the young cattle. Lightweight yearlings to restockers sold to cheaper trends, the steers up to 8c/kg, with the better quality heifers only marginally cheaper. Secondary quality and mixed breed pens were affected more. The heavier yearling steers up to 330kg sold to a dearer trend with breed a factor in price change. Medium and heavy feeder steers sold to cheaper trends of 5c to 15c/kg and more in places, once again breed and quality a factor. Yearling heifers over 280kg to restock and feed sold to cheaper trends of 5c to 25c/kg with the well finished lots most affected. There was a breed and quality component also.

The limited supply of heavy grown steers sold to a cheaper trend of 15c/kg under reduced competition. Well finished grown heifers however sold to dearer trends with some improvement in quality. There was a strong market for cows with the market trend firm to dearer. Little change on the best of the cows, with the plain condition and secondary cows showing dearer trends.

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