

## **Livestock Market Report**

### **Tamworth Sheep and Cattle**

There were increased supplies in both the sheep and the lambs. The quality of the lambs was mostly good with a few very heavy pens of old lambs and a good supply of well finished new season lambs. There were the usual plainer quality and condition lambs, not having had access to much feed. The usual buyers were in attendance.

Demand for well finished lambs was strong. This resulted in a firm to dearer market trend. Well finished new season lambs experienced strong gains when taking weight variation into account. The majority of the light and medium weight lambs up to 22kg estimated dressed saw a firm to slightly dearer trend with quality and weight accounting for most of the price change. The heavier weights followed a similar trend. The extra heavy weight lambs experienced strong price gains with most of that improvement related to increases in estimated weights. There were some very good quality Merino lambs penned, they also were dearer carrying quite a good skin.

There was high processor demand for well finished sheep with competition strong. This related to dearer trends for the well finished lines. There was not a lot of change in the market for the plainer condition sheep.

There was a sharp reduction in numbers, however supplies remain high showing little confidence in the season going forward. There was a large supply of yearlings, particularly steers that would be normally carried through. The quality of the offering was fairly mixed, with not as many straight bred lines available. The condition was very mixed with a few well finished young cattle available. The usual buyers were in attendance along with a little extra feedlot and restocker competition.

There were varying trends through the young cattle with light weight yearlings attracting increased restocker activity. Both the steers and the heifers sold to a dearer trend. Medium and heavy weight yearling feeder steers sold on a firm to cheaper market trend, with only the best quality, breed specific lots maintaining their level. There was also some quality related price variation. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to cheaper trends with quality a factor. There were strong gains for well finished medium and heavy weight yearling heifers under increased demand.

Limited supplies of well finished heavy grown steers sold to dearer trends, strong gains for quality. The increased demand for well finished heavy cattle resulted in suitable grown heifers also selling to a dearer trend. Market trends through the cows varied with the light weight 1 and 2 scores selling firm to slightly cheaper, some quality related price variations. Well finished heavy weight cows remained mostly firm, despite a little less competition. Heavy bulls sold firm to slightly cheaper with some quality related price change.

### **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.

There was only 100 head difference in the corresponding markets for the week. Quality was mostly plain, although there were some well finished drafts of yearling steers in particular and these sold to dearer trends. A feedlot based in southern QLD was very competitive in purchasing medium and heavy feeders. Conversely, southern restocker competition was absent, seeing those lighter categories experience cheaper trends.

Restocker weaner steers saw significantly cheaper trends of 20c, with the heifer portion not so much affected with a 5c/kg rise. Apart from reduced buyer interest, quality of the younger cattle was found wanting. Medium weight feeder steers saw trends rise, up to 20c, the heavy drafts also dearer, seeing rises of 10c/kg. The better heifers to feed saw rises of 26c, while heavy heifers to the trade saw a rise of 5c/kg.

Heavy steers to the trade saw firm trends, as did the heifer portion. Restockers were competitive in purchasing light cows, although there was a shortfall of 15c/kg. Similarly, medium weight cows to slaughter saw cheaper trends of 10c to 19c/kg. The better quality heavy cows saw rises of 15c/kg. Live export bull operators again put a floor in the heavy bull market, pushing the best bulls to 294c, while the slaughter bulls made to 290c/kg.

### **Dubbo Sheep and Cattle**

It was a plain quality yarding with a large percentage of lightweight tail end lambs. There were only odd pens of well finished heavy weight lambs and trade weight lambs yarded. Most of the regular buyers were in attendance and operating.

Lightweight lambs to the processors were up to \$6 cheaper with the 12kg to 18kg 2 scores selling from \$85 to \$155/head. Lighter trade weight lambs were firm while the heavier trade weights were \$5 cheaper with quality a factor. The 18kg to 24kg lambs sold from \$135 to \$210 to average between 790c and 830c/kg cwt. Limited numbers of trade weight new season lambs were dearer selling from \$158 to \$220/head. Heavy weight lambs were \$2 to \$6 dearer with the over 24kg 4 scores selling from \$200 to \$277/head.

Merino lambs were firm with the trade weights selling from \$136 to \$182 while a pen of heavy weights sold for \$195/head. Lambs to the restockers were firm with very light and young White Dorsers selling from \$51 to \$90 while Merino lambs to the restockers sold from \$56 to \$100/head. Hoggets sold to \$227/head.

It was an outstanding quality yarding of sheep with large numbers of top merino ewes and wethers along with some excellent crossbred ewes. Most grades were \$5 to \$9 cheaper with the exception of the heavy weight ewes and wethers which were firm. 2 score ewes sold from \$70 to \$115 while the better 3 and 4 scores sold from \$102 to \$214 for crossbreds and \$210/head for Merinos. Outstanding heavy weight Merino wethers sold for \$225/head.

The numbers jumped back up this week with numbers lifting by 1200. It was a fair quality yarding with some excellent lines of well finished cows along with some properly finished yearlings. There was a fair selection of good feeder cattle and once again there was large numbers of weaners in store condition. There were also some good pens of well finished grown steers and heifers off crops or grain. Not all the regular buyers were present with the absence of a major feeder operator.

Young cattle to the trade were firm to 5c cheaper with the prime steer yearlings selling from 300c to 321c while the prime heifer yearlings sold from 240c to 305c/kg. Feeder steers were 8c to 15c cheaper while the feeder heifers were 2c to 6c/kg cheaper. The feeder steers sold from 248c to 320c while the feeder heifers sold from 219c to 310c/kg. Young restocker cattle were 8c to 10c cheaper with the young steers selling from 220c to 300c while the young restocker heifers sold from 148c to 265c/kg.

Grown steers were 10c cheaper with the prime medium and heavy weights selling from 285c to 316c/kg. Grown heifers were considerably cheaper selling to 290c/kg. Cows were 10c to 15c cheaper with the 2 scores selling from 140c to 219c/kg. The better 3 and 4 scores sold from 197c to 269c with the prime heavy weights averaging 252c/kg. Bulls sold to 265c/kg.

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