



Livestock Market Report

Tamworth Sheep and Cattle

Lamb numbers increased with the offering incorporating the annual show sale. The quality of the offering as a result showed some improvement. There was a good supply of young lambs as well as some outstanding quality heavy weights. Possibly the heaviest lambs offered at this centre with 2 pens weighing between 90kg and 100kg liveweight. In the young lambs both restockers and processors were catered for. The usual buyers operated.

Market trends through the lambs were generally cheaper. The improved quality of the lambs helping to reduce the average price change drop. The quality of the young lambs purchased by restockers was very good and contributed to higher prices in comparison to the previous sale. Well finished young lambs saw a firm to slightly cheaper market trend. Some heavier weights achieving a higher price.

The market trend for well finished old lambs was firm to slightly cheaper on the lambs up to 24kg. Heavier weights followed a similar trend, with weight related price change. The extra heavy weight lambs saw a large weight related price change, no similar weights to compare to.

There were quite a few well finished lines of sheep penned, particularly in the crossbreds. Processor competition was solid for the most part, while there was some restocker competition for lightweights and any Merino sheep carrying long wool. Market trends were again firm to slightly cheaper with the heaviest sheep most affected.

There was a small increase in numbers with large supplies of yearlings. Cows were also well represented. The quality of the offering was generally good, however condition varied greatly. There was a reasonable supply of well finished cattle to suit both domestic and export processing orders. There was reduced feedlot competition and increased processor activity with the return of buyers.

Demand for young cattle from restockers was reasonably strong with a number of Southern and Western orders in place. Market trends for lightweight yearling steers to restock were firm to slightly cheaper. Despite a little less competition the market for medium and heavy weight feeder steers followed a similar trend. Breed and quality were factors in price change. Quality and increased competition were factors in very strong gains recorded in heavy trade yearling steers. Lightweight yearling heifers to restockers remained firm. Medium weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a slightly dearer trend. Well finished trade heifers were firm to cheaper with some of that quality related.

Heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend, up to 5c/kg, while an improvement in quality accounted for a large rise in average prices. Well finished grown heifers sold to a cheaper trend. The cow market saw varying trends with the medium weights selling to a slightly cheaper trend for the most part. Odd sales to restockers and feeders were slightly dearer. Increased competition on well finished cows resulted in the heavy 3 and 4 scores experiencing a dearer trend of as much as 20c/kg with odd sales of improved quality cows showing a greater rise. Heavy bulls remained firm for the most part.

Gunnedah Cattle

The numbers showed a small increase. There were large supplies of yearlings, they mostly fell into the light and medium weight categories. Limited supplies of heavy and well finished lines to suit processors or export feedlotter. Cows were also well supplied. The overall quality of the offering was fair to good with condition quite mixed. There were some plain quality cattle penned. The usual buyers were in attendance, however there was reduced competition on the better cows.

Market trends varied through the young cattle with vealer steers to restockers selling to a dearer trend. Some breed related price change. Conversely the heifer vealers to both restockers and processors sold to cheaper trends. Lightweight yearling steers to restock and feed saw little but quality and breed related price change. The medium weight yearling feeder steers remained firm with an odd slightly dearer sale. Heavy feeders sold to a cheaper trend with breed and quality contributing to price change. Lightweight yearling heifers to restockers saw a firm to cheaper market trend with supply a factor. Medium weights to feed were firm to slightly dearer.

The limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers sold to a slightly dearer trend. Reduced competition saw the well finished grown heifers sell to a cheaper trend. There were cheaper trends through the cow market. The plainer condition medium weight cows were down slightly. Quality and reduced competition on the better cows contributed to significant price falls with the market trend as much as 20c/kg cheaper.

Dubbo Sheep and Cattle

It was a mostly plain quality yarding with good numbers of light weight lambs lacking finish. There were odd pens of well finished trade lambs and Merino lambs, along with only a few pens of heavy weights. All of the regular buyers were in attendance and operating.

Light weight lambs sold to processors, were \$4 cheaper with the 12-18kg 2 scores selling from \$85 to \$150/head. Trade lambs were firm to \$4 dearer with the 18-24kg lambs selling from \$153 to \$207/head, to average between 770c and 855c/kg cwt. Trade weight new season lambs were \$5 dearer, selling from \$165 to \$201/head. The few heavy weight lambs were \$5 dearer with the over 24kg 4 scores selling from \$206 to \$275/head. Merino lambs were \$1 to \$3 dearer with the trade weights selling from \$140 to \$175/head. Heavy weight Merinos selling at \$198/head. Light weight new season lambs to the restockers sold from \$40 to \$111/head. Hoggets sold up to \$198/head.

There were some very good sheep along with plenty of plainer types in a mixed yarding of mutton, where most grades were \$6 to \$10/head dearer. 2 score ewes sold from \$70 to \$126/head. The better 3 and 4 scores sold from \$118 to \$210 for crossbreds and \$205/head for Merinos. Most of the better covered sheep ranged from 575c to 645c/kg cwt.

It was a plainer quality yarding with once again good numbers of young cattle lacking finish. There were a few lines of top quality cows yarded along with good numbers of plainer types. There were only odd lots of well finished trade cattle and very few grown steers. Most of the regular processors were operating through some southern restockers. Feedlotter were absent.

Young cattle to the trade were from 10c to 14c/kg cheaper, with quality a factor. The prime steer yearlings sold from 260c to 323c, while the prime heifer yearlings made from 250c to 290c/kg. Feeder steers and heifers were from 10c to 13c/kg cheaper. The feeder steers sold from 241c to 311c, while the feeder heifers sold from 206c to 295c/kg. Young restocker cattle were firm to 10c/kg cheaper. The young steers sold from 180c to 302c, while the young restocker heifers made from 100c to 254c/kg.

The few grown steers were 4c cheaper, with the prime medium and heavy weights selling from 290c to 307c/kg. Grown heifers finished dearer with the better types selling from 250c to 298c/kg. Plain conditioned cows were firm, while the better finished cows were 9c/kg cheaper. 2 score cows sold from 154c to 204c while the better 3 and 4 scores sold from 200c to 275c/kg for outstanding C muscle Charolais cows. The prime heavy weight cows averaged 244c/kg. Bulls sold to 265c/kg.

Wagga Sheep

Dry conditions forced bigger numbers of new season lambs into the market, with agents yarding almost 20,000 head. The balance of the supply was old lambs, varying from outstanding to light weight plainer types. Agents presented a stellar run of new season lambs and buyers paid a premium for the heavy portion. Old lambs were of mixed quality and there was a significant price variance between shorter skinned and longer wool lambs. There were increased supplies of lighter weight new season lambs which sold to strong restocker competition. Buyers traveled from Jugiong, Albury, Forbes, Ballarat, along with some local inquiry.

The new season trade lambs sold to solid competition with several prices spiking throughout the sale. The best of the heavy trade lambs, 22kg to 24kg, were unchanged averaging 830c/kg cwt. Heavy new season lambs attracted a large field of processors and bidding intensified from a northern processor and two major domestic processors. Heavy lambs firmed, selling from \$215 to \$226, while the extra heavy lambs gained \$2, selling from \$223 to \$260/head to average 827c/kg cwt. New season lambs back to the paddock sold to stronger demand with buyers from Forbes, Ballarat, Jugiong and the local area. The bulk of the lambs sold to restockers and lot feeders made from \$138 to \$188/head.

Old trade lambs sold to a bigger group of buyers averaging 760c/kg cwt. Merino trade lambs varied in quality, resulting in prices fluctuating accordingly. Merino trade lambs, 20kg to 24kg, sold from \$144 to \$198/head.

There was stronger export competition from a northern buyer for heavy export lambs which contributed to the dearer trend of \$7 to \$11/head. Extra heavy lambs sold from \$213 to \$292/head to average 816c/kg cwt.

It was another impressive yarding of mutton with only limited supplies of plainer sheep offered. Heavy mutton sold to strong competition and all buyers were operating fully. Heavy crossbred ewes sold up to \$208/head averaging 558c/kg cwt. Heavy Merino ewes made from \$148 to \$210/head. Heavy wethers sold from \$160 to \$200/head, averaging 600c/kg cwt. Trade and light sheep made from \$110 to \$155/head, averaging 580c/kg cwt.

For more information contact your AWN Livestock Specialist

Peter Hargreaves 0409 321 001 Nyngan

Scott Bremner 0428 174664 Armidale