

Sheep Livestock Market Report

17 November 2020



Queensland

Warwick Sheep

The last lamb and sheep sale for 2020 at Warwick penned 657 lambs and 324 grown sheep. The quality of the overall yarding improved along with a lift in prices across all classes. The regular panel of processors, wholesalers, and butchers were active on all trade lambs and grown sheep. A large number of restockers were present and operating on the lines of store lambs and sheep.

Light weight young lambs sold to the trade for \$138 and to restockers for \$153/head. Light weight trade lambs made \$188 to average \$174 and to restockers at \$196/head. Medium weight lambs sold to butchers at \$198 to average \$193/head. With heavy weight lambs to processors making \$220/head.

Hoggets sold to processors at \$170 along with young wethers also making \$170/head. Fat score 2 ewes sold to processors at a top of \$191 to average \$170 with some ewes returning to the paddock at \$180/head. Wethers sold to processors for \$150/head. Ram lambs sold to the trade at \$169 and to restockers for \$138/head. Full mouth rams sold to processors at \$160 with restockers paying \$180/head.

New South Wales

Tamworth Sheep

There was a reduced penning of lambs at 1800 with sheep steady at 700 head. The quality of the lambs was very mixed with a good supply of heavy and extra heavy weights. Restockers had a fair supply of lightweight Dorpers to select from. The usual processor orders were in place.

Demand was high across all classes. This resulted in dearer trends throughout. Quality accounted for some negative price change. There was some significant price improvement recorded, particularly in the heavier weight classes, where there was also some weight increase.

The quality and condition of the sheep on offer was mixed. Skin values also showed a great variation with a numbers of pens of Merino ewes carrying good skin length. Market trends were generally firm to dearer on the better condition sheep. Some of the plainer quality and lighter condition sheep saw a cheaper trend.

Forbes Sheep

Lamb numbers more than halved and the quality was mixed. There were a few very good heavy lambs both shorn and woolly. Trades were in short supply and there was only a limited number of Merinos. Lambs sold to a dearer trend.

Most of the new season light and medium trade weighted lambs sold to restockers and made from \$162 to \$172/head or 860c to 940c/kg cwt. Heavy new season lambs were \$10 to \$12 dearer selling from \$174 to \$215/head or to average from 780c to 815c/kg cwt. Extra heavy lambs reached \$238/head. Shorn lambs lifted from \$10 to \$12/head with an odd sale more. Trade lambs sold from \$172 to \$183 and heavy lambs made from \$182 to \$218/head to average around 800c/kg cwt. Extra heavy lambs reached \$270/head. The best priced hogget reached \$220/head.

Mutton numbers lifted and the quality was fair. Prices dropped \$12 to \$17/head. Medium weight ewes sold from \$133 to \$146/head. Heavy crossbred ewes sold from \$190 to \$223 and Merinos \$180 to \$220/head. Most averaged from 550c to 600c/kg cwt.

Carcoar Sheep

The last sale for the year produced a similar sized yarding. It was a good quality yarding with a good selection of trade and heavy weight lambs throughout. There was also a large consignment of young lambs in store condition sourced from the south. A full field of buyers competed strongly in a mostly dearer market.

Trade lambs were up to \$18 dearer with the new season lambs selling from \$178 to \$214/head to average 890c/kg cwt. Trade weight old lambs sold from \$160 to \$194/head. Heavy weight lambs were \$16 to \$18 dearer with the new season lambs over 24kg selling from \$210 to \$250/head to average from 840c to 865c/kg cwt. Heavy weight old lambs sold from \$215 to \$257/head. A single pen of light trade weight Merino lambs sold for \$141/head. Lambs to the restockers were firm with very young lambs selling from \$88 to \$171/head for lambs in forward condition. First cross ewe hoggets sold for \$242 to the restockers and hoggets to the processors made to \$208/head.

It was a mostly good quality yarding of mutton where most grades were \$16 to \$22/head cheaper. Merino ewes sold from \$60 to \$182 while crossbred ewes made from \$114 to \$195/head. Merino wethers sold to \$210/head. Carcase prices ranged from 500c to 575c/kg cwt. The restockers paid from \$140 to \$224/head for aged first cross ewes.

Yass Sheep

Numbers were back with 13,600 new season lambs penned. The quality remains good with a large percentage of the lambs still showing a degree of freshness and bloom. Shorn lambs were limited and there were limited numbers of Merino lambs. Trade and heavy lambs made up the bulk with a reduced offering of light store lambs. The market sold to a stronger trend.

New season lambs returning to the paddock sold from \$136 to \$164/head to remain firm. Medium and heavy trade lambs were \$12 to \$15 dearer selling from \$156 to \$179/head to average from 810c to 850c/kg cwt. Heavy lambs were \$12 stronger to sell from \$170 to \$220/head or 790c/kg cwt on average. Extra heavy weights reached \$257/head. Shorn new season trade lambs to 24kg were \$8 to \$9 stronger and sold from \$160 to \$197/head or to average 795c/kg cwt. Heavy weights sold from \$195 to \$215 and extra heavy lambs reached \$239/head.

Mutton numbers were back and the quality not as good with large numbers of medium weight. Heavy and extra heavy ewes were not as well supplied. The market sold to a cheaper trend up to \$20/head. Medium weight ewes made from \$110 to \$166/head. Heavy crossbred ewes sold from \$173 to \$220 and Merinos made from \$154 to \$186/head. Merino wethers reached \$237/head.

Victoria

Ballarat Sheep

Lamb supply increased 56,800 to have the yards at full capacity for the last sale this year, the quality was very mixed with a large portion of the yarding showing dryness in the skins and not the weight cover to previous weeks. All the usual buying group were in attendance, most operating fully with a few being selective in an extremely strong market to see price increases across all categories. Competition for store lambs back to the paddock was again extremely strong this week to be \$5 to \$8/head dearer. Trade weight lambs were in demand to make from \$5 to \$15 better and heavy and extra heavy lambs sold \$11 to \$20 stronger to top at \$262/head. The small offering of young Shorn lambs sold from \$123 to \$231, one pen sold to a top of \$289/head. Sheep supply decreased to 12,000 yarded, the quality was plain to very good, plenty of weight on offer across the yarding. Not all processors were operating to see the market ease from \$10 to \$20/head across most weights and grades. Merino mutton sold to a top of \$227 and crossbred's made to \$238/head,

Orders for specialty feeders and restockers were strong on the light weight lambs back to the paddock, under 20kg sold from \$74 to \$166, 20kg and over made from \$161 to \$179/head. Lambs suiting MK orders under 18kg sold from \$121 to \$155/head. Lambs to the trade 18 to 22kg sold from \$153 to \$204, 22 to 24kg made from \$173

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to \$218/head to make from 721c to 922c to average 805c to 815c/kg cwt. Lambs 24 to 26kg's were in high demand selling from \$195 to \$231/head, in places reaching over 900c to average 835c/kg cwt. Export 4 score 26 to 30kg lambs, sold from \$210 to \$249 and over 30kg made from \$247 to \$262/head to average 805c/kg cwt. Hoggets sold to \$240 for crossbreds and Merino's sold to \$168/head.

Heavy Merino wethers over 24kg sold from \$152 to \$210, with lighter weights making from \$110 to \$156/head to sell within a range of 620c to 680c/kg cwt. Heavy Merino ewes sold from \$154 to \$227/head, to average from 620c to 630c/kg. Heavy crossbred ewes made from \$142 to \$219/head, to average from 570c to 590c/kg cwt. Merino rams sold to a top of \$120/head.

Western Australia

Muchea Sheep

A increase of 5,000 in the yarding and the first numbers of lambs off stubble produced an overall lift in quality. In the lamb market feedlotters were particularly keen on the 19 to 21kg and that saw a lift of \$5 on these types, they also crossed into the 22kg weights that gained \$3/head. Ram lambs eased \$5 on a poorer selection. Hoggets to the trade gained \$3 and heavy mutton were up by \$7/head. A good selection of wethers saw a top price of \$197/head.

The very light weight lambs up to 12kg sold to graziers from \$30 to \$63/head. The 13 to 17 kg air freight types to the trade and graziers sold from \$80 to \$127/head or to average from 700c to 750c/kg cwt. The 18 to 20kg light trade lambs sold from \$120 to \$143 to lift by \$5/head or to average 660c/kg cwt. The prime 21 to 22kg weights sold from \$130 to \$158/head. Heavier 23kg plus sold from \$150 to \$177/head. Ram lambs made from \$80 to \$156 to ease by \$5/head on a poorer selection. Hoggets were again keenly sought and gained \$3 with sales from \$127 to \$170/head or from 500c to 600c/kg cwt.

The heavy older wethers to processors remained firm and sold from \$135 to \$197/head with the tops having a good fleece. In the ewe mutton market, values remained firm on the medium weights. The medium weight boners 19 to 24kg sold from \$85 to \$137/head. The prime 25 to 30kg pens sold from \$136 to \$168/head or from 500c to 580c/kg cwt. Heavier sold from \$160 to \$183/head to lift by \$7/head.

National Sheep Prices

Price Stock Category	Weekly Avg.	Change	High	Low	Clearance	Avg Weight (Kgs)
Merino Wether Lambs	\$120	-\$6	\$161	\$87	66%	34
NSM Merino Ewe Hoggets	\$301	+\$59	\$415	\$181	49%	52
NSM Merino Ewes	\$213	-\$4	\$216	\$153	59%	62
Border Leicester/Merino Ewe Lambs	\$272	+\$26	\$348	\$186	35%	42
NSM Border Leicester/Merino Ewes	\$290	+\$18	\$335	\$225	84%	72
Ewes with Lambs at Foot	\$296	-\$54	\$436	\$195	62%	57
Crossbred Lambs (c/kg)	421	+11	564	346	83%	36

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