

not always receive favourable attention from buyers.

In other years big dealers brought surplus Taranaki heifers to the Waikato, but such large-scale movements have not been so usual of late. Actually many requirements are met through the operations of local stock agents, who are constantly in close touch with supply and are in a position to vouch for the vendor. An important market for dairy stock in the principal production areas is the end-of-season clearing sale following change of farm ownership, or management, or of sharemilkers. This auctioning of whole herds never fails to attract a large bench of buyers. With a herd sold on a farm goes some assurance of the standard of feeding and management, while factory returns give a definite guide to productive capacity. These points are usually lacking in stockyard sales, in which the vendor's name may not appear. There is also a certain amount of traffic by dealers in dairy cows, but it is not necessarily favourable to the purchaser.

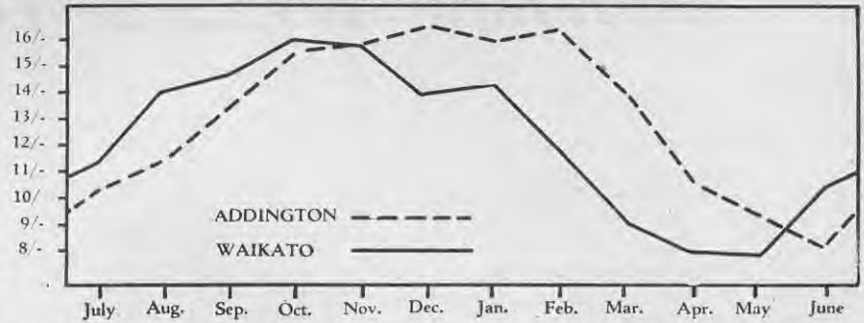
In most stockyards in dairying areas there is a special dairy section to cater for the sale by auction, but quite a large trade is done privately or through the agents of the stock firms. In recent years stock prices have advanced considerably and Table LXXXII indicates the trend since 1934-35, giving quotations for springing heifers in June to September. In the Waikato those graziers who are on easy, topdressed country are responsible for supplying a large percentage of the in-calf heifer trade for the local dairy market. These men buy complete lines of yearlings from the small farmer whose country is too expensive to hold them through. There is a much better financial return from this class of business than in handling store cattle for fattening.

**TABLE LXXXII—PRICES FOR SPRINGING HEIFERS, JUNE TO SEPTEMBER.**

Season.	Waikato.	Rangitikei-Manawatu.
1934-35	6 5 0	5 10 0
1935-36	8 10 0	6 15 0
1936-37	10 0 0	8 0 0
1937-38	10 15 0	9 10 0
1938-39	10 15 0	9 15 0
1939-40	12 15 0	10 0 0
1940-41	12 0 0	12 15 0
1941-42	12 0 0	10 0 0
1942-43	11 15 0	9 15 0
1943-44	14 0 0	11 10 0

The extensive trade in pedigree dairy cattle emphasises the demand for high-producing stock, prices paid being in accordance with the record of butterfat backing and the standing of the breeder. In the main dairy centres annual sales dispose of a fair proportion of stud stock, but the larger breeders may hold public sales on their properties. Private selling assumes substantial proportions, though the public auction sales very largely

**AVERAGE WEANER PRICES 1934-39.**



set the values. Bulls sold are usually 2 years old or yearlings, and the female stock comprises mainly in-calf heifers, and in most cases there is a written guarantee or an unwritten understanding that the vendor will replace any animal proving defective. There has also developed a steadily-increasing export trade in top-quality stud cattle of both beef and dairy breeds to Argentina, Australia, and even China.

Arising from the culls of the dairy herds is the boner cow trade, which accounts for an export of some 20,000 tons of canned meat and finds a ready market with a section of the English consumers. The boner cow market is organised on a basis of schedule prices offered by the meat export companies, at present 23/- per 100lb. carcass weight. There is a steady stream of cull cows coming to the markets throughout the dairy season, but larger numbers appear from the end of April as the herds are dried off. Collecting arrangements have been worked out by freezing companies in some districts, but, if marketed in the stockyards, as is more common, these cows are competed for by freezing company buyers and occasionally local butchers on the basis of estimated carcass weights. On the existing schedule a dairyman can get a return of round about £4 10s. for his Jersey culls and up to £9 for Short-horns, and this has a direct bearing on dairy cow prices. Cull bulls for canning enter the market on the same basis and fetch attractive prices.

### Store Pig and Sow Sales

The store pig market is almost wholly in the stockyards, and prices reflect fairly accurately the state of supply and demand. Store pig sales in April to June illustrate the use or abuse of the stock market to quit the surplus autumn weaners that are the bugbear of a pig industry still almost completely depending on skim-milk. At that time the yards are full of unwanted weaners and unfinished pigs, and there are few buyers. On the other hand, from September to November a healthy trade is done in store pigs. The diagram above show-

ing weaner prices averaged over five pre-war seasons illustrates the position and incidentally shows how the Canterbury season lags behind the Waikato.

There is also a keen trade for unfinished baconers suitable for fattening by buttermilk contractors, about £1 difference between the value of the bought pig and the final product being a useful margin to work on. The prices of large stores given in Table LXXXIII are averaged over the months of December to February, and reflect the trend of pig values over the period:—

**TABLE LXXXIII—PRICES FOR LARGE STORE PIGS.**

Season.	Waikato.	Canterbury.
1934-35	1 4 0	1 3 0
1935-36	1 7 0	1 3 0
1936-37	1 8 0	1 7 0
1937-38	1 13 0	1 10 0
1938-39	1 9 0	1 13 0
1939-40	1 10 0	1 16 0
1940-41	1 12 0	1 13 0
1941-42	1 4 0	1 9 0
1942-43	2 1 0	2 4 0
1943-44	1 14 0	1 19 0

Most breeding stock is sold privately, except that in the main dairy centres there are special annual sales. Principal breeders also have annual auctions on their premises, and the pedigree pig business, in common with that of sheep and cattle, is closely associated with agricultural and pastoral shows. The few grade sows and boars sold in the stockyards often meet with an indifferent reception.

### Internal Parasites of Livestock

CONSIDERABLE economic loss among livestock occurs annually because of the ravages of internal parasites, and it is the duty of every farmer to do his utmost to minimise these losses. The Department's free bulletin (No. 189) deals fully with the advantages of phenothiazine in the control of internal parasites. Its effectiveness against the various types of parasites, the methods of administration and the dose rates are fully discussed in this bulletin, which may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.