Ballarat buyers get active

The National Livestock Reporting Service said all the usual buyers were active at Ballarat’s Tuesday sale, leading to price increases of up to $25/head in the sale of 20,236 lambs, 16,064 fewer. Light trade sold to $10 dearer, medium trade were to $17 stronger, heavy trades sold $8-$12 better and a limited export heavy lamb offering sold to $25 dearer. Store buyers paid $10-$20 more.

The NLRS said lambs under 18kg cwt made $83-$170 and over 18 lines sold from $160-$218. Lambs under 18kg suiting MK orders made $150-$169. New season 18-22kg trade lambs sold from $161-$196, the 22-24kg lambs made $180-$216, and heavy lambs 24-26kg sold from $205-$225, or averaging 820-850c/kg. Export lambs over 26kg made $222-$238 and over 30kg to $257, or averaging 810-830c/kg. The shorn 18-22kg lambs sold from $174-$185, the 22-24kg lines made $195-$209, the 24-26kg lines sold from $202-$226 and over 26kg $230-$269, to average 830-900c/kg.

The NLRS said sheep quality ranged from plain to very good in the yarding of 5284, 216 fewer. Most of the usual buyers were present and the market was $5-$10 dearer. Heavy Merino wethers made $134-$193 to average 640-680c/kg. Merino ewes sold from $124 to $175/head to average 600-640c/kg and heavy crossbred mutton made $162-$247, averaging 580-630c/kg.

Hamilton lamb prices $20-$40 stronger

The NLRS said Hamilton agents yarded 14,678 lambs, 11,280 fewer and quality was from very good to plain.

Some lambs showed dryness in the wool and as a result there are more and more lambs being offered shorn. Despite this there was a good offering of lambs suitable for the trade and most buyers in the near-full field were active despite some works shut down or slowed by COVID.

The NLRS said restocking competition was still in force on the lighter weight lambs. Despite the uncertainty the market, was very strong to be $20-$40/head dearer over most categories with lambs to the trade leading the rise.

New season light 12-16kg lambs made $104-$176 and most returned to the paddock. The 18-22kg trade lambs made $158-$209, averaging around 850-920c/kg. The 22-26kg trade lambs sold from $176-$238 to average around 850-900c/kg. Heavy lambs over 26kgs made to $252.