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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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LIVESTOCK STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

31ST MARCH, 1963

Preliminary details of the total numbers of principal livestock in Australia at 31st March, 1963 are shown below. The figures are based on data obtained by the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician in each State from the annual Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying Census taken at the end of March each year. It is expected that further particulars of livestock numbers classified according to age, sex etc., will be published within the next month.

The main features of the movement in livestock numbers to March, 1963 were as follows:-

Sheep and Lambs. - The number of sheep and lambs in Australia at 31st March, 1963, 158,648,000, was a record, being 936,000 (0.6 per cent.) greater than the previous highest level recorded in 1962. The rising trend in sheep numbers which commenced in 1947 has continued unbroken except for 1961.

Dairy Cattle. - The number of dairy cattle at 31st March, 1963, 5,073,000, continued the gradual increase commenced in 1959. The number in 1963 was 27,000 (0.5 per cent.) greater than in 1962.

Beef Cattle. - Beef cattle at March, 1963, were at the record level of 13,441,000, having increased by 454,000 (3.5 per cent.) over the number recorded in the previous year.

Pigs. - The number of pigs at 31st March, 1963, at 1,439,000 was 213,000 (12.9 per cent.) lower than the record level reached in 1962. Compared with 1962, a decline in numbers was experienced in all States, those most affected being Western Australia (a decline of 25 per cent.) and New South Wales (17 per cent.).

Totals of each class of livestock are shown below.

NUMBERS OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK : AUSTRALIA

(Thousands)

Type of Livestock	At 31st March -					Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-), 1963 on 1962
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963(a)	
Sheep & Lambs	152,685	155,174	152,679	157,712	158,648	+ 0.6
Cattle - Dairy	4,846	4,877	4,901	5,046	5,073	+ 0.5
Beef	11,411	11,626	12,431	12,987	13,441	+ 3.5
Pigs	1,289	1,424	1,615	1,652	1,439	-12.9

(a) Subject to revision

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COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

13TH AUGUST, 1963

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 41971 Extension 13 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

