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MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1950.

EVENING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1950.

BROADCASTING STATIONS: MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1950

LIVESTOCK STATISTICS - AUSTRALIA

31st March, 1950

The Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) has issued statistics of the numbers of principal livestock in Australia as at 31st March, 1950. These statistics are based on preliminary data obtained from the Annual Census of Agricultural, Pastoral and Dairying activities taken in March of this year, and will be revised when the complete results of the Census are available. Final details of livestock numbers classified according to age and sex, etc. will be released shortly.

The main features of the movement in livestock numbers, as shown by the statistics at 31st March, 1950 are as follows:-

Sheep: Continuing an upward trend in sheep numbers after the trough of 95.7 million recorded at 31st March, 1947, Australian sheep at 31st March, 1950 numbered 111.9 million, which represented an increase of 3.2 million or 2.9 per cent on the number at March, 1949. This increase, derived mainly from New South Wales and Queensland, brought sheep numbers to a point just higher than that recorded at the beginning of 1939, but 13.3 million below the peak of 125.2 million recorded in March, 1942.

Cattle: Cattle numbers at 31st March, 1950, also continued the upward movement following the low numbers recorded at 31st March, 1947. However, whilst the increase in dairy cattle numbers during 1949-50 was insignificant, beef cattle at 31st March, 1950 numbered 9.7 million, representing an increase of 5.1 per cent on the numbers at March, 1949. This was due mainly to increases in New South Wales and Queensland. The total number of cattle at 31st March, 1950, (14.6 million) represented an increase of 13.5 per cent on numbers recorded at the beginning of 1939.

Pigs: Pig numbers at 31st March, 1950 stood at 1.1 million, continuing the decline from the peak number of 1.7 million, recorded at 31st March, 1944. The decline from 1.2 million pigs recorded at 31st March, 1949 was shared by all States.

NUMBERS OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK AT 31ST MARCH, 1950 : STATES

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(Subject to revision)

Classification	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T.	AUST.
Sheep	52,500	19,161	17,419	9,510	10,901	2,170	26	254	111,941
Cattle - Dairy	1,264	1,525	1,419	272	226	158	-	3	4,867
- Beef	2,180	706	4,834	193	643	117	1,049	8	9,730
Pigs	333	213	389	69	76	36	(b)	(b)	1,117

(a) As at 31st December, 1949. (b) Less than 500

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LIVESTOCK : AUSTRALIA

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Classification	Beginning of 1939	At 31st March -					Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) from 1939 to 1950
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Sheep	111,058	96,396	95,723	102,559	108,735	111,941	+ 0.80
Cattle - Dairy	12,862	4,609	4,592	4,746	4,863	4,867	+ 13.49
- Beef		9,269	8,835	9,039	9,261	9,730	
Pigs	1,156	1,426	1,273	1,255	1,196	1,117	- 3.37