

CHAPTER XVIII.

FARMYARD, DAIRY, AND BEE PRODUCTS.

§ 1. Introductory.

1. **General.**—The introduction of cattle into Australia, and the early history of the dairying industry are referred to in some detail in earlier issues of this work (see Official Year Book No. 6, p. 430). It may here be noted that the original stock has been crossed with specially imported stud cattle, while further judicious crossing of strains has resulted in an increased and improved milk supply. In Australia, dairy cattle thrive in the open throughout the year, local climatic conditions demanding no protection other than tree plantations for shelter, and rugging in the coldest weather. Indigenous and imported grasses furnish food during the greater part of the year, and winter fodder, when necessary, is given to the cattle in the fields. With the adoption of scientific methods in the treatment of animals and pasturages and in the processes of manufacture, coupled with effective State supervision, the dairying industry has shown rapid expansion.

2. **Official Supervision of Industry.**—Dairy experts, under the supervision of the various State Agricultural Departments, give instruction in approved methods of production, and inspect animals, buildings, and marketable produce. A high standard of cleanliness, both of personnel and *matériel*, prevails. Financial assistance of a temporary nature is also given, advances made being generally repaid with promptitude.

The export trade is regulated by the terms of the Commonwealth Commerce Act 1905 and regulations thereunder. The provisions of this Act are set out in detail in Official Year Book No. 6, pp. 431-2. It will be sufficient to note here that the true trade description, etc., must be marked on all produce intended for export, while official inspection ensures the maintenance of purity and quality. Upon request of the exporter the goods are certificated by the inspector.

3. **Mixed Farming.**—Dairying is not now, as formerly, wholly confined to farmers, since many graziers in a large way of business have lately given it their attention. In non-coastal regions it is generally carried on in conjunction with agriculture and sheep-raising, sufficient fodder being grown to carry the cattle through the winter months. Local wants are thus met, and in many places remote from the metropolis well-equipped factories have been established.

4. **Factory System.**—Cream separation and butter-making are often carried on together under the co-operative system. The creation of large central butter factories, supplied by numerous separating establishments or "creameries," has resulted in a considerable reduction in the cost of manufacture, since improved appliances such as refrigerators, may be profitably worked at the larger establishments. The product is also of a more uniform quality. The number of farmers who adhere to hand processes is rapidly diminishing. Formerly the average quantity of milk used per pound of hand-made butter was about 3 gallons, but separator butter requires only $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons.

5. **Butter and Cheese Factories.**—The factories in Australia for the manufacture of butter, cheese, and condensed milk numbered 533 in 1923–24. These were distributed in the various States as follows:—New South Wales, 171; Victoria, 184; Queensland, 127; South Australia, 59; Western Australia, 9; and Tasmania, 33.

§ 2. Dairy Cattle and Dairy Products.

1. **Dairy Herds.**—The dairy herds of Australia were severely depleted during the drought of 1914–15, when the number of dairy cattle was reduced to 1,684,393. Following that year substantial increases have taken place, particularly since 1919, and the number recorded in 1923 represents a gain of nearly 300,000 in the past decade. In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania the proportion of dairy cattle to all cattle is high. In Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia there is a greatly preponderating number of other cattle, dairying not being firmly established in the tropical regions of the Continent. In Southern Queensland, however, the industry has developed remarkably during the last decade, and the progress attained in that area has been largely responsible for the Australian increases since 1912. The figures for the Northern Territory are rough estimates only:—

CATTLE, AND DAIRY CATTLE—NUMBER, 1919 TO 1923.

State.		1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
New South Wales	{ All Cattle ..	3,075,954	3,367,880	3,538,240	3,244,905	2,932,437
	{ Dairy Cows ..	897,140	757,534	815,579	706,957	784,824
Victoria	{ All Cattle ..	1,831,120	1,575,159	1,750,369	1,785,660	1,591,367
	{ Dairy Cows ..	623,652	620,005	719,473	794,898	738,140
Queensland	{ All Cattle ..	5,940,433	6,455,067	7,047,370	6,955,463	6,396,514
	{ Dairy Cows ..	373,146	448,634	554,208	563,683	512,529
South Australia	{ All Cattle ..	349,562	376,399	419,197	425,811	413,272
	{ Dairy Cows ..	106,982	117,536	131,054	135,450	136,438
Western Australia	{ All Cattle ..	880,644	849,803	893,108	939,596	953,764
	{ Dairy Cows ..	42,993	47,719	53,828	58,387	61,832
Tasmania	{ All Cattle ..	214,442	208,202	216,704	218,197	220,351
	{ Dairy Cows ..	64,073	63,681	68,595	69,991	70,497
Northern Territory	{ All Cattle ..	610,534	659,840	568,031	760,766	843,718
	{ Dairy Cows ..	70	70	70	(a)	(a)
Federal Capital Territory	{ All Cattle ..	8,378	7,387	8,290	6,275	6,085
	{ Dairy Cows ..	480	459	414	443	375
Australia ..	{ All Cattle ..	12,711,067	13,499,737	14,441,309	14,336,673	13,357,508
	{ Dairy Cows ..	1,908,536	2,055,638	2,343,221	2,419,809	2,304,644

(a) Not available.

2. **Milk.**—The annual quantity of milk produced per dairy cow varies greatly with breed, locality and season, reaching as high as 1,000 gallons, but averaging for the whole of Australia, for all dairy cows and for all seasons, prior to 1916, considerably under 300 gallons per annum. Recently there has been an improvement in the grade of dairy cattle, and the 300 gallon mark has been exceeded on four occasions since 1916, the yield of 343 gallons in 1921 constituting a record. The average in 1923 was adversely affected by unfavourable seasonal conditions in New South Wales and Queensland. The best yields over a series of years appear to be in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales, while Queensland and Tasmania in normal years are above Western Australia. In the following table the annual average yields per cow for the last five years are based on the number of dairy cows which were in milk during any part of the year. The average given is considerably below that for cows which were yielding during the greater part of the year. The highest averages were, of course, obtained in those States which have most extensively adopted scientific methods of dairying, such as systematic breeding, culling of herds, milk testing, etc.

MILK PRODUCTION, 1919 TO 1923.

Heating.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	Australia (b)
1919—								
Dairy Cows (a) .. No.	707,525	607,866	377,325	105,106	42,563	64,292	539	1,905,216
Production 1,000 gals.	203,707	196,884	71,856	30,899	9,608	16,503	90	529,547
Aver. per cow .. gals.	288	324	190	294	226	257	167	278
1920—								
Dairy Cows (a) .. No.	727,337	621,829	410,890	112,259	45,356	63,877	469	1,982,017
Production 1,000 gals.	250,998	204,522	104,659	34,657	10,234	19,000	105	623,275
Aver. per cow .. gals.	344	329	255	309	226	297	223	314
1921—								
Dairy Cows (a) .. No.	786,557	669,739	501,421	124,295	50,773	66,138	437	2,199,360
Production 1,000 gals.	285,166	245,181	151,081	41,398	11,329	21,000	105	755,260
Aver. per cow .. gals.	363	366	301	333	223	318	240	348
1922—								
Dairy cows (a) .. No.	806,268	757,186	558,945	133,252	56,108	69,293	428	2,381,480
Production 1,000 gals.	226,864	249,322	134,032	42,054	11,932	21,000	106	685,310
Aver. per cow .. gals.	281	329	240	316	213	303	248	288
1923—								
Dairy Cows (a) .. No.	790,890	766,524	538,106	135,944	60,110	70,244	409	2,362,227
Production 1,000 gals.	225,395	260,953	104,204	47,621	13,048	21,200	111	672,532
Aver. per cow .. gals.	285	340	194	350	217	302	271	285

(a) Mean for the year.

(b) Exclusive of Northern Territory.

3. **Butter and Cheese.**—Although the quantity of dairy production is largely affected by the nature of the seasons, the output of butter shows a steady increase in the past decade. During that period the average annual production increased from 189,000,000 lb. for the quinquennium 1909–1913 to 220,000,000 lb. for the latest five years under review. The marked development of dairying in Queensland, where the butter production has nearly doubled since 1913, was chiefly responsible for the increased butter output in Australia, although Victoria and New South Wales contributed largely to the general progress. The production of 267,071,340 lb. in 1921 was the maximum output of butter in Australia. This figure will probably be exceeded in 1924–25, for in that year the record export of 145,281,285 lb. was recorded, to which must be added the average amount required for local consumption, viz., 150,000,000 lb., making a total production of nearly 300,000,000 lb.

The manufacture of cheese has been steadily increasing throughout Australia during recent years, the 1921 production of 32,653,003 lb. being the highest yet recorded. The output of cheese has grown from 16 to 25 million lb. during the past ten years, or more than 55 per cent.

The development in dairy production since 1896, and in the exports of butter from 1901 onwards are shown in the graphs on page 660. Particulars for the past five years are as follows:—

BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCTION, 1919 TO 1923.

State.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
BUTTER.					
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
New South Wales ..	263,127,160	284,259,641	2100,652,620	273,705,349	272,660,613
Victoria ..	260,218,945	264,938,458	282,981,570	284,355,940	286,888,725
Queensland ..	26,213,514	40,751,373	60,923,194	53,785,599	40,659,634
South Australia ..	29,810,335	211,897,279	214,505,599	214,646,632	217,244,389
Western Australia ..	1,980,273	2,212,311	2,658,153	2,766,533	3,005,491
Tasmania ..	4,290,724	4,014,402	5,270,243	5,716,708	26,183,521
Federal Capital Territory ..	27,840	28,400	219,961	18,248	17,480
Australia ..	165,645,791	208,081,864	267,071,340	234,995,009	226,665,853
CHEESE.					
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
New South Wales ..	26,762,467	26,407,209	27,367,057	25,198,905	25,912,656
Victoria ..	27,735,023	23,636,571	25,675,909	23,754,960	27,216,936
Queensland ..	8,296,318	11,512,262	15,200,527	10,560,316	7,221,355
South Australia ..	2,540,183	21,804,696	23,392,400	23,261,565	23,679,552
Western Australia ..	821	354	1,073	212	4,365
Tasmania ..	861,460	709,432	1,016,037	934,601	21,340,661
Australia ..	26,196,272	24,160,524	32,653,003	23,710,559	25,389,525

(a) For year ended 30th June of year following.

4. **Concentrated Milk.**—"Condensed" or "concentrated" milk represents milk the bulk of which is reduced by evaporation. The industry is of comparatively recent growth, the quantity of milk treated in 1901 being negligible, but production increased annually until in 1911 the output nearly doubled that of the previous year. Thenceforward rapid progress was made, the greatest development taking place in Victoria, where the industry is most largely established. There is still an import of milk, but the exports in each year far outweigh the quantity imported. No condensed or concentrated milk is made in South Australia, Western Australia, or Tasmania. In New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland the returns for the last five years were as follows:—

CONDENSED, CONCENTRATED, OR POWDERED MILK MADE, 1919 TO 1923.

Year.	N.S.W.(a)	Victoria.(a)	Queensland.	Australia.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1919	12,969,679	44,219,389	9,170,034	66,359,102
1920	14,938,147	42,643,871	13,362,464	70,944,482
1921	6,860,466	48,354,210	15,168,652	70,383,328
1922	3,544,565	38,314,260	9,601,914	51,460,739
1923	7,158,537	49,099,632	8,131,648	64,389,817

(a) For year ended 30th June of year following.

5. **Oversea Trade in Butter, Cheese, and Milk.**—The following tables give the imports, exports, and net exports of butter, cheese, and milk. In each of the five years the exports of butter, cheese, and condensed milk exceeded the imports.

**BUTTER, CHEESE AND MILK, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—AUSTRALIA,
1919-20 TO 1923-24.**

Products.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
IMPORTS.					
Butter lb.	36,774	33,762	732,336	2,955,934	2,368,102
" £	2,282	2,997	58,982	237,149	191,828
Cheese lb.	28,625	72,110	85,601	499,125	1,422,148
" £	2,988	8,371	7,518	27,345	71,379
Milk—concentrated and preserved(a)lb.	1,075,887	603,565	130,592	417,054	373,866
" £	49,029	30,883	14,658	28,371	26,652
EXPORTS.					
Butter lb.	39,006,304	92,420,995	127,579,797	79,571,151	65,984,020
" £	3,304,695	11,067,104	7,987,558	6,133,864	4,919,664
Cheese lb.	7,524,910	9,531,310	12,671,929	5,454,466	3,831,269
" £	377,905	514,252	438,372	231,907	142,820
Milk—concentrated and preserved(a)lb.	35,568,218	37,381,955	36,705,320	21,234,027	17,765,480
" £	1,606,310	2,189,167	2,132,580	1,328,762	1,080,088
NET EXPORTS.(b)					
Butter lb.	38,969,530	92,387,233	126,847,461	76,615,217	63,615,918
" £	3,299,413	11,064,107	7,928,576	5,896,715	4,727,836
Cheese lb.	7,496,285	9,459,200	12,585,428	4,955,341	2,409,121
" £	374,917	505,881	430,254	204,562	71,441
Milk—concentrated and preserved(a)lb.	24,492,331	36,778,390	36,574,728	20,816,973	17,391,614
" £	1,557,281	2,158,284	2,117,922	1,300,391	1,053,436

(a) See definition above. (b) Excess of exports over imports.

6. **Local Consumption of Butter and Cheese.**—The total production of butter and cheese, with the subtraction or addition of the net export or import for the corresponding period gives approximately the quantity available for consumption in Australia. In the period considered hereunder the local supply of cheese was adequate :—

BUTTER AND CHEESE.—LOCAL CONSUMPTION, 1919 TO 1923.

Products.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Butter .. Total ..	120,679,261	115,694,631	139,491,548	158,379,792	163,049,935
„ .. Per head of population ..	23.88	21.38	25.32	28.12	28.36
Cheese .. Total ..	18,699,987	14,701,324	19,981,974	18,755,218	22,971,404
„ .. Per head of population ..	3.53	2.72	3.63	3.33	4.00

The quantity available for consumption in 1923 averaged more than 28 lbs. of butter and 4 lbs. of cheese per head of population, an amount probably unsurpassed anywhere. The consumption of butter and cheese in the United Kingdom in normal times is given as about 22½ lbs. per head per annum.

§ 3. Pigs and Pig Products.

1. **Pigs.**—The number of pigs in Australia from 1919 to 1923 is shown below :—

PIGS.—NUMBER, 1919 TO 1923.

State.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
New South Wales (b) ..	253,338	305,967	383,326	340,579	322,762
Victoria (a) ..	186,810	175,275	230,770	294,962	259,795
Queensland ..	99,593	104,370	145,083	160,617	132,243
South Australia (b) ..	60,295	78,395	87,667	75,520	73,414
Western Australia ..	58,155	60,581	63,001	67,561	61,478
Tasmania (a) ..	35,530	38,116	49,743	46,056	47,101
Northern Territory ..	1,675	1,416	452	361	647
Federal Cap. Territory (b) ..	572	286	343	274	434
 Australia ..	 695,968	 764,406	 960,385	 985,930	 897,874

(a) As on 1st March of year following.

(b) As on 30th June of year following.

For many years the number of pigs in Australia has fluctuated considerably. There was a heavy falling off in 1915, followed by substantial increases during 1916 and 1917, the number in 1917 being the highest recorded in Australia. The total of 1,169,365 pigs in 1917 declined to 695,968 in the next two years, but the numbers were supplemented by increases during each of the next three years, while a decline of 90,000 in 1923 reduced the total number to 897,874. The number of pigs per head of population, and the number per square mile, will be found in the tables of live stock, page 661.

2. **Bacon and Ham.**—(i) *Production.* During the past five years the production of bacon and ham has fluctuated between the record quantity of 67,600,747 lb. manufactured in 1923, and 50,250,487 lb. in 1920, the average for the period amounting to 59,340,051 lb., which is far in excess of any previous five-yearly average.

BACON AND HAM.—PRODUCTION, 1919 TO 1923.

State.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
New South Wales(a) ..	16,657,362	16,249,762	20,413,330	19,234,681	19,044,294
Victoria(a) ..	19,385,509	15,139,100	17,396,798	19,269,125	22,540,973
Queensland ..	12,155,489	11,337,050	12,386,417	15,130,545	16,219,969
South Australia(a) ..	5,810,616	4,172,372	5,089,424	5,002,199	5,095,970
Western Australia(b) ..	2,609,284	2,077,662	1,962,621	2,050,220	2,420,585
Tasmania ..	1,128,096	1,267,061	1,356,329	1,778,015	2,271,141
Federal Cap. Territory(a)	12,236	7,480	9,540	11,185	7,815
Total ..	57,758,592	50,250,487	58,614,459	62,475,970	67,600,747

(a) For year ended 30th June of year following. (b) A portion only from pigs slaughtered in the State; balance imported and subsequently cured.

(ii) *Local Consumption.* From 1904 onwards the production of bacon and ham has been sufficient to meet the local demand, and provide a small surplus for export.

BACON AND HAM.—LOCAL CONSUMPTION, 1919 TO 1923.

Particulars.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Total ..	54,732,706	47,151,519	55,926,806	60,753,826	66,372,107
Per head of population ..	10.32	8.71	10.15	10.78	11.54

3. *Oversea Trade in Pig Products.*—The oversea trade in pigs and pig products is shown in the following table:—

PIG PRODUCTS.—AUSTRALIAN TRADE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Particulars.	1919-20	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Pigs.					
Imports ..	No. 16	11	31	31	13
" ..	£ 94	65	194	596	376
Exports ..	No. 164	166	119	67	38
" ..	£ 1,044	1,199	990	510	288
Net Exports ..	No. 148	155	88	36	25
" ..	£ 950	1,134	796	-86	-88

BACON AND HAM.

Imports ..	lb. 15,047	14,610	25,292	149,270	320,030
" ..	£ 1,067	1,479	1,610	8,414	19,005
Exports ..	lb. 3,040,933	3,113,578	2,712,945	1,871,414	1,548,670
" ..	£ 258,890	323,280	223,067	158,414	132,581
Net Exports ..	lb. 3,025,886	3,098,968	2,687,653	1,722,144	1,228,640
" ..	£ 257,823	321,801	221,457	150,000	113,576

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports.

PIG PRODUCTS.—AUSTRALIAN TRADE, 1919-20 TO 1923-24—*continued*.

Particulars.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
LARD.					
Imports lb.	22,001	42,795	115,659	505,827	574,733
" £	1,092	1,825	3,625	12,905	17,181
Exports lb.	7,969,444	3,118,105	2,909,658	1,358,291	651,530
" £	375,910	153,084	88,753	38,491	24,027
Net Exports .. lb.	7,947,443	3,075,310	2,793,999	852,464	76,797
" £	374,818	151,259	85,128	25,586	6,846
FROZEN PORK.					
Imports lb.	..	..	..	370,094	1,679,278
" .. .. £	..	..	..	14,486	63,908
Exports lb.	371,397	163,303	152,584	144,796	53,142
" £	19,149	9,370	7,414	6,282	2,099
Net Exports .. lb.	371,397	163,303	152,584	- 225,298	- 1,626,136
" £	19,149	9,370	7,414	- 8,204	- 61,809

NOTE.—The minus sign - signifies net imports.

The output of pig products in Australia is usually more than sufficient to meet local requirements, and a small export trade is being built up.

During the last five years the value of the average annual net export amounted to nearly £350,000, the bulk of the shipments consisting of bacon, ham and lard.

§ 4. Total Dairy Production.

The total dairy production of Australia in 1923 is shown below :—

TOTAL DAIRY PRODUCTION.—AUSTRALIA, 1923.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tasmania. (a)	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Total.
MILK.								
Used for—	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Butter ..	165,610,507	197,624,780	83,903,988	36,445,242	7,060,404	13,882,000	55,430	504,582,351
Cheese ..	6,259,057	7,048,050	7,244,735	3,490,059	4,325	1,343,340	..	25,389,566
Condensing and con- centrat- ing ..	3,059,023	11,648,570	2,181,379	..	..	..	..	16,888,972
Other pur- poses ..	50,466,053	44,630,980	10,873,775	7,685,858	5,983,378	5,974,660	55,930	125,670,634
Total ..	225,394,640	260,952,380	104,203,877	47,621,159	13,048,107	21,200,000	111,360	672,531,523
BUTTER.								
In Factories	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
On Dairy	68,030,162	81,291,595	38,417,853	13,311,698	1,715,749	4,264,565	..	207,031,622
and other								
Farms ..	4,636,451	5,597,130	2,241,781	3,932,691	1,280,742	1,918,956	17,480	19,634,231
Total ..	72,666,613	86,888,725	40,659,634	17,244,389	3,005,491	6,183,521	17,480	226,665,853

(a) For year ended 30th June, 1924.

TOTAL DAIRY PRODUCTION.—AUSTRALIA, 1923—*continued*.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tasmania. (a)	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Total.
CHEESE.								
In Factories	lb. 5,834,440	lb. 6,796,386	lb. 7,210,295	lb. 3,679,390	lb. ..	lb. 943,629	lb. ..	lb. 24,464,140
On Dairy and other Farms ..	78,216	420,550	11,060	162	4,365	402,032	..	916,385
Total ..	5,912,656	7,216,936	7,221,355	3,679,552	4,365	1,345,661	..	25,380,525

CONDENSED, CONCENTRATED, OR POWDERED MILK.

In Factories	lb. 7,158,537	lb. 49,099,632	lb. 8,131,648	lb. ..	lb. ..	lb. ..	lb. ..	lb. 64,389,817
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BACON AND HAM.

In Factories	lb. 17,693,376	lb. 20,458,243	lb. 15,814,185	lb. 4,432,350	lb. 2,169,953b	lb. 1,488,809	lb. ..	lb. 62,056,916
On Dairy and other Farms ..	1,350,918	2,082,730	405,784	663,620	250,632	782,332	7,815	5,543,831
Total ..	19,044,294	22,540,973	16,219,969	5,095,970	2,420,585	2,271,141	7,815	67,600,747

(a) For year ended 30th June, 1924. (b) A portion only from pigs slaughtered in the State, the balance being imported and subsequently cured.

§ 5. Poultry Farming.

1. **General.**—Poultry stocks are largely maintained by farmers, and production therefrom furnishes a considerable addition to the annual agricultural or dairying returns. During recent years, however, poultry-keeping has assumed an independent position among rural industries, while it is also carried on in conjunction with pig-farming. Special poultry farms have been instituted for scientific breeding, and poultry experts give lectures and instruction. Poultry for consumption is extensively reared, and the egg-producing qualities of the birds have been greatly improved by careful breeding. Co-operative egg-collecting circles have been formed in some districts; eggs are also delivered with the milk and cream to the local butter factories, and thence forwarded to market.

2. **Poultry Products.**—There is some difficulty in obtaining complete figures for the yield of poultry products. The following values relate to poultry and eggs :—

POULTRY AND EGGS.—VALUE OF PRODUCTION, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Year.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania. (a)	Australia.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1919-20 ..	2,814,000	3,579,230	356,590	924,986	191,288	300,000	8,166,094
1920-21 ..	3,196,000	4,545,620	449,827	1,164,999	189,658	300,000	9,846,104
1921-22 ..	2,650,000	4,406,750	429,983	1,027,634	208,429	300,000	9,022,796
1922-23 ..	2,894,000	4,315,810	417,052	1,066,137	240,423	300,000	9,233,422
1923-24 ..	2,443,160	4,587,560	364,681	1,088,105	252,527	300,000	9,036,033

(a) Estimated.

3. **Oversea Trade in Poultry Products.**—The Australian oversea trade in live or frozen poultry is insignificant, although the export of frozen poultry is increasing. During the three years ended 1922-23 fairly large consignments were forwarded from New South Wales mainly to the United States of America. The imports and exports of eggs and egg-contents show a balance on the side of exports. The export trade in eggs has expanded considerably during the last five years, and in 1922-23 the number exported amounted to 1,209,283 dozen, the bulk of which were shipped from New South Wales to the United Kingdom. The number of eggs imported into Australia during the last five years amounted to 119,898 dozen, of which number China supplied 110,257 dozen, or nearly 92 per cent.

POULTRY PRODUCTS, TRADE.—AUSTRALIA, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Particulars.			1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
LIVE POULTRY.							
Imports	..	No.	721	484	663	791	881
"	..	£	1,564	850	1,170	1,534	3,981
Exports	..	No.	2,477	2,886	2,626	2,872	2,234
"	..	£	2,448	2,741	3,272	2,682	1,707
Net Exports	..	No.	1,756	2,402	1,963	2,081	1,353
"	..	£	884	1,891	2,102	1,148	-2,274
FROZEN POULTRY.							
Imports	..	lb.	10,273	4,087	2,712	4,784	5,438
"	..	£	602	328	178	228	269
Exports	..	pair	13,346	22,376	50,367	34,399	10,882
"	..	£	10,760	29,963	50,205	42,951	11,270
Net Exports	..	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
"	..	£	10,158	29,635	50,027	42,723	11,001
Eggs.							
Imports	..	doz.	4,015	27,452	33,558	26,750	28,123
"	..	£	230	1,802	1,994	1,591	1,707
Exports	..	doz.	211,034	413,602	808,849	1,236,033	655,620
"	..	£	17,461	53,932	75,857	102,946	52,743
Net Exports	..	doz.	207,019	386,150	775,291	1,209,283	627,497
"	..	£	17,231	52,130	73,863	101,355	51,036
Egg-CONTENTS.							
Imports	..	lb.	4,992	23,898	26,590	33,672	34,418
"	..	£	1,523	4,446	4,091	5,250	7,845
Exports	..	lb.	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
"	..	£	48,675	27,298	12,116	38	212
Net Exports	..	lb.	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
"	..	£	47,152	22,852	8,025	-5,212	-7,633

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports. (a) Quantity not available.

§ 6. Bee Farming.

1. **General.**—As is the case with poultry-farming, bee-farming is frequently carried on in connexion with agriculture or dairying. The returns of honey from productive hives during 1923-24 gave an average of 45½ lb. per hive, while the average quantity of wax was 0.65 lb. per hive.

2. Production of Honey and Beeswax.—The number of hives and the production of honey and beeswax during the year 1923-24 are given in the following table :—

BEE-HIVES, HONEY, AND BEESWAX, 1923-24.

State.	Bee Hives.			Honey Produced.		Beeswax Produced.	
	Pro- ductive.	Unpro- ductive.	Total.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	No.	No.	No.	lb.	£	lb.	£
New South Wales ..	19,979	11,748	31,727	590,800	12,062	12,701	910
Victoria ..	39,482	21,278	60,760	2,110,713	48,370	25,371	1,900
Queensland ..	10,788	4,328	15,116	505,346	9,125	7,405	460
South Australia ..	13,492	9,010	22,502	721,640	11,276	11,216	689
Western Australia ..	8,656	4,123	12,779	395,047	7,635	5,637	384
Tasmania ..	5,681	1,891	7,572	133,330	3,334	1,596	106
Fed. Cap. Territory..	8	26	34	180	4	2	..
Australia ..	98,086	52,404	150,490	4,457,056	91,806	63,928	4,449

The table hereunder gives the production of honey and beeswax for the latest available five years :—

HONEY AND BEESWAX PRODUCTION, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Season.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.	Fed. Cap. Ter.	Australia.
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HONEY.

	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1919-20	472,020	1,396,704	305,586	552,976	336,206	80,468	320	3,144,280
1920-21	1,441,617	1,724,942	426,662	1,821,811	149,226	85,125	1,760	5,651,143
1921-22	2,986,574	2,712,675	598,357	791,324	196,440	82,920	2,500	7,370,790
1922-23	1,235,905	2,285,000	580,057	1,863,026	330,869	71,030	3,175	6,369,062
1923-24	590,800	2,110,713	505,346	721,640	395,047	133,330	180	4,457,056

BEESWAX.

	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1919-20	12,195	24,735	7,215	7,350	6,611	2,329	..	60,435
1920-21	23,234	24,222	7,501	17,501	3,849	1,788	86	78,181
1921-22	28,255	32,737	8,231	9,108	3,980	1,976	130	84,417
1922-23	28,244	27,182	8,895	19,111	5,391	1,473	198	90,494
1923-24	12,701	25,371	7,405	11,216	5,637	1,596	2	63,928

The quantity of honey and beeswax produced naturally varies from year to year according to the conditions of the seasons. During the last five years New South Wales has produced 6,726,916 lb. of honey and 104,629 lb. of beeswax, while the Victorian figures amounted to 10,230,034 lb. and 134,247 lb. respectively for honey and beeswax. These two States together accounted for 62½ per cent. of the total production of honey, and 63.3 per cent. of the beeswax. Next in order of importance were South Australia, Queensland, and Western Australia.

3. **Oversea Trade in Bee Products.**—In normal years the local production of honey exceeds Australian requirements, and a fair quantity is available for export. During the past five years the value of the exports amounted to only £33,369, or an annual average of £6,674, owing to the decrease in production. Australian honey exhibited at the Franco-British Exhibition in London in 1908 obtained the highest award. The more general use of frame hives has affected the production of wax, and as a result the quantity imported has exceeded that exported during each of the past five years.

BEE PRODUCTS.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, ETC., AUSTRALIA, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Particulars.		1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
HONEY.						
Imports ..	lb.	1,093	201,548	13,572	811	772
" ..	£	35	5,838	399	24	22
Exports ..	lb.	588,384	97,541	94,471	57,638	41,584
" ..	£	18,815	5,328	4,448	2,718	2,060
Net Exports ..	lb.	587,291	- 104,007	80,899	56,827	40,812
" ..	£	18,780	- 510	4,049	2,694	2,038
BEE SWAX.						
Imports ..	lb.	26,149	28,235	223,441	238,368	76,478
" ..	£	1,969	2,452	12,786	13,817	4,759
Exports ..	lb.	15,853	7,535	2,259	671	2,046
" ..	£	1,467	810	154	61	149
Net Exports ..	lb.	- 10,296	- 20,700	- 221,182	- 237,697	- 74,432
" ..	£	- 502	- 1,642	- 12,632	- 13,756	- 4,610

NOTE.—The minus sign — signifies net imports.

§ 7. Value of Farmyard, Dairy, and Bee Products.

The value of the farmyard, dairy and bee products raised in Australia in 1923 was as follows:—

FARMYARD, DAIRY, AND BEE PRODUCTS.—VALUE, 1923.

Products.	N.S.W.(a)	Victoria. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust. (a)	W. Aust.	Tas. (a)	N.T.	Fed. Cap. Ter. (a)	Australia.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Milk, consumed as									
such ..	2,628,440	2,324,530	566,342	400,305	311,635	311,180	..	2,913	6,545,345
Butter ..	5,712,571	6,491,842	3,373,807	1,326,139	249,538	447,383	..	1,374	17,602,654
Cheese ..	268,430	253,925	343,500	144,382	171	51,169	..	..	1,061,577
Condensed and concentrated milk	c 289,367	d 1,509,406	e 284,691						2,083,464
Bacon and ham ..	983,451	1,676,208	803,186	310,171	142,528	124,608	..	404	4,040,556
Pork ..	386,530	473,071	207,393	155,263	132,615	115,021	..	251	1,470,144
Lard ..	22,931	89,559	36,825	9,396	9,306	6,320	..	9	174,346
Livestock							429	160	1,373
Poultry and eggs	2,443,160	4,587,560	364,681	1,088,105	252,527	300,000	..	(b)	9,036,033
Honey and wax	12,972	50,270	9,585	11,965	8,019	3,440	..	4	96,255
Total ..	12,747,852	17,456,371	5,990,010	3,445,726	1,106,339	1,359,905	429	5,115	42,111,747

(a) Year ended 30th June year following. (b) Included with New South Wales. (c) Includes other Milk Products made. (d) Includes casein, £82,557, and milk sugar, £24,440. (e) Includes coffee and milk, £3,462; cocoa and milk, £254; chocolate and milk, £65; cremonne, £6,927; and Other Products, £2,018.

§ 8. Exports of Australian Farmyard, Dairy and Bee Products.

The quantities and values of Australian farmyard, dairy, and bee products exported during each of the last five years are shown below :—

AUSTRALIAN FARMYARD, DAIRY AND BEE PRODUCTS.—EXPORTS, 1919-20 TO 1923-24.

Products.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
QUANTITY.					
Beeswax lb.	14,438	5,838	830	581	1,909
Butter "	39,006,304	92,420,995	127,347,428	78,975,387	65,440,852
Cheese "	7,516,412	9,530,221	12,670,782	5,454,415	3,787,714
Egg albumen and yolk (a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Eggs doz.	210,784	413,477	807,359	1,236,033	655,215
Feathers, undressed (a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Honey lb.	588,384	97,541	94,471	57,638	41,584
Lard "	7,931,014	3,118,105	2,908,595	1,357,372	645,930
Meats—					
Bacon and ham "	3,040,933	3,113,488	2,712,911	1,871,414	1,548,670
Frozen poultry pair	13,346	22,376	50,367	34,390	10,882
Frozen pork lb.	371,297	163,303	152,584	137,046	53,142
Milk, concentrated and preserved	35,548,082	37,281,554	36,678,109	21,135,137	17,762,106
Pigs, living No.	164	166	119	67	38
Poultry, living "	2,477	2,880	2,621	2,858	2,174
VALUE.					
Beeswax £	1,325	628	77	51	137
Butter £	3,301,695	11,007,104	7,968,078	6,082,414	4,874,921
Cheese £	377,398	514,123	438,350	231,898	140,715
Egg albumen and yolk £	48,675	27,055	12,061	32	210
Eggs £	17,434	53,920	75,764	102,946	52,715
Feathers, undressed £	793	1,133	956	1,247	303
Honey £	18,815	5,328	4,448	2,718	2,060
Lard £	374,641	153,084	88,694	38,447	23,809
Meats—					
Bacon and ham £	258,890	323,253	223,065	158,414	132,581
Frozen poultry £	10,760	29,963	50,205	42,951	11,270
Frozen pork £	19,149	9,370	7,414	6,063	2,039
Milk, concentrated and preserved £	1,605,101	2,184,761	2,131,279	1,325,883	1,079,943
Pigs, living £	1,044	1,199	990	510	288
Poultry, living £	2,448	2,731	3,268	2,640	1,649
Total	6,038,228	14,373,657	11,004,649	7,996,214	6,322,700

(a) Quantity not available.

§ 9. British Imports of Dairy Products.

1. Quantities and Values.—The following table gives the quantities and values of the principal dairy products imported into the United Kingdom during the years 1919 to 1923 :—

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—IMPORTS, UNITED KINGDOM, 1919 TO 1923.

Products.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Butter cwt.	1,560,204	1,702,203	3,523,976	4,268,561	5,095,511
" £	19,854,427	24,518,748	42,339,947	37,315,536	44,234,534
Cheese cwt.	2,118,250	2,750,260	2,817,465	2,659,345	2,838,546
" £	15,170,620	20,633,946	17,446,521	12,437,818	15,260,707
Milk—Concentrated and preserved cwt.	3,347,645	2,127,199	2,350,610	2,059,050	2,366,532
" £	17,088,310	13,083,697	11,303,566	6,588,155	6,716,648
Bacon and ham cwt.	10,094,352	5,935,981	6,804,875	7,365,394	9,540,241
" £	89,681,616	53,239,250	51,745,149	44,115,900	46,536,807
Pork (a) cwt.	160,263	485,181	372,055	292,358	475,963
" £	1,075,563	3,443,332	1,863,027	1,102,304	1,898,233

(a) Frozen, chilled, and salted.

2. **Butter.**—(i) *Imports.* Australia has for many years supplied a large proportion of the butter imported into the United Kingdom. The quantity available for shipment thereto in 1923 was, however, not so large as in the previous year, nevertheless it amounted to 532,878 cwt., or about 10½ per cent. of the total importation. The Australian contribution was valued at £4,726,340, and was exceeded only by that shipped from Denmark and New Zealand.

BUTTER IMPORTS.—UNITED KINGDOM, 1923.

Country from which Imported.	Quantity.	Value.	Country from which Imported.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	£		Cwt.	£
Denmark ..	1,837,941	16,757,198	Canada ..	39,834	346,446
New Zealand ..	1,130,765	10,205,809	Soviet Republics ..	30,163	237,531
Australia ..	532,878	4,726,340	United States of America ..	10,578	98,797
Argentine Republic ..	491,256	3,948,962	Foreign Countries, n.e.i. ..	14,219	111,279
Irish Free State ..	492,354	3,751,095	British Possessions, n.e.i. ..	5,350	36,678
Netherlands ..	174,493	1,375,635			
Finland ..	116,076	1,009,292			
Latvia ..	86,013	660,512			
France ..	94,389	591,170			
Sweden ..	39,202	377,790	Total ..	5,095,511	44,234,534

(ii) *London Prices.* The average price of the best quality Australian butter in London during the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

AUSTRALIAN BUTTER.—LONDON PRICES, 1914 TO 1924.

Year.	Average Top Price per Cwt.	Year.	Average Top Price per Cwt.
	s. d.		s. d.
1914	119 0	1920	(b) 299 9
1915	144 6	1921	234 0
1916	169 6	1922	183 0
1917	(a) 206 0	1923	184 6
1918	(b) 252 0	1924	189 6
1919	(b) 252 0		

(a) Proclaimed price.

(b) Flat rate for all imported butter.

Under contract the British Government purchased the surplus output of Australian butter during the period from 1st July 1918, to 31st July, 1920. The price paid was 175s. per cwt. for butter scoring 90 points, a shilling per cwt. being added or deducted as the grading score exceeded or fell below that standard. On the 1st August, 1920, the contract was extended for a further period, the price of butter having been increased to 240s. per cwt., subsequently raised to 272s., and the grading price being likewise increased to 1s. 6d. per cwt. This contract terminated on the 31st March, 1921, butter thenceforward being sold in open market.

3. **Cheese.**—The value of cheese imported into the United Kingdom in 1923 was £15,260,707, of which over £7½ million worth was received from New Zealand, and £5½ million worth from Canada. Small experimental shipments from Australia were made in 1908 and following years, fair prices being realized. The value of the imports from Australia has increased from £24,568 in 1913 to £246,568 in 1923,

4. **Bacon and Ham.**—Of a total import of bacon and ham valued in 1923 at £46,536,807, the United Kingdom received imports to the value of £19,638,597 from Denmark, £19,253,285 from the United States, and £4,389,860 from Canada. The import from Australia was small, experimental shipments only having been made during recent years.

5. **Pork.**—The value of the United Kingdom imports of pork (frozen and salted only) was £1,898,233 in 1923. There was no importation from Australia, the bulk of the supplies being forwarded from the United States, Argentine Republic and Denmark.

6. **Other Products.**—There was practically no shipment to the United Kingdom from Australia of beeswax, poultry, game, lard, or honey, but frozen rabbits to the value of £451,761, and eggs to the value of £101,887 were received from Australia in 1923.