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Brief Communication

PRICE: LIVELWEIGHT RELATIONSHIPS AT BEEF
WEANER SALES

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Liveweight data for beef weaners were available at the Omarama weaner sales in 1971 and 1972. Vendors had the option of having calves weighed in the first year.

Linear regression analysis of the 1971 data showed that price was closely related to liveweight and that other factors did not significantly affect this relationship.

Liveweight was also the main determinant of price at the 1972 sales. Some other factors considered by multiple regression were also shown to have a significant effect. Size of line had a consistent effect increasing expected price by 22 cents for each additional beast. Breed and sex, evenness of line, and condition of the weaners influenced price, but the effects were small and inconsistent.

The regression of price (P , \$/weaner) on liveweight (W , in kg) for the four sales were:

$$1971 - \text{North: } P = 0.288 W + 11.32 \quad (r = 0.923, 53 \text{ lines}) \\ (\text{SE} = 0.016)$$

$$1971 - \text{South: } P = 0.240 W + 25.79 \quad (r = 0.908, 48 \text{ lines}) \\ (\text{SE} = 0.016)$$

$$1972 - \text{North: } P = 0.206 W + 42.26 \quad (r = 0.801, 61 \text{ lines}) \\ (\text{SE} = 0.020)$$

$$1972 - \text{South: } P = 0.186 W + 47.82 \quad (r = 0.808, 61 \text{ lines}) \\ (\text{SE} = 0.018)$$

For any pen of weaners the expected price was determined by a liveweight component and a market component. The market component is a base price for weaners. It is a function of demand and will alter at the whim of buyers, confidence in export beef prices, and local feed conditions.

The liveweight component consists of the liveweight, and the increment paid for each additional kilogram of liveweight. Both components were important in establishing price differences. The market component established price differences between sales, while variations in liveweight caused price differences within sales.