

SURVEY OF SEASON

The killings of meat returned to the Department during the 1945-46 season as available for export totalled 338,417 tons.

On account of the weather and pasture conditions prevailing in the North Island during the early part of this year, and after consulting the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, it was decided to accept for export, stock below normal export standard. This resulted in the purchasing of third-grade lambs, wethers, and ewes. Porkers down to 40 lb. weight were also accepted for export.

In spite of the adverse climatic conditions, the lamb and ewe mutton killings both exceeded the previous records by a substantial margin.

Lamb and mutton average weights were considerably lower than last year. The comparative figures being—

				North Island.		South Island.		Dominion.	
				1944-45	1945-46	1944-45	1945-46	1944-45	1945-46
				lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Lambs ..	..	..	..	34·20	31·39	35·05	34·61	34·59	32·81
Wethers ..	..	..	..	59·18	54·32	51·02	49·67	58·40	53·86
Ewes ..	..	..	..	57·14	52·51	53·13	52·83	55·68	52·61

Details of killings for export month by month throughout the season are shown in the following table.

FROZEN MEAT KILLINGS FOR EXPORT, SEASON 1945-46

	Lamb.	Wether Mutton.	Ewe Mutton.	Quarter Beef.	Veal.	Boneless Bobby Veal.	Boneless Bull Beef.	Boneless Cow and Ox Beef.	Baconers.	Porkers.	Choppers.	Edible Offal.	Total.
1945	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
October ..	9	17	100	65	..	909	137	309	1,009	165	18	212	2,950
November ..	3,175	381	517	515	..	372	267	303	1,549	197	25	284	7,585
December ..	21,855	955	1,211	1,099	..	191	370	455	1,712	224	20	834	28,926
1946													
January ..	45,737	2,614	5,584	3,157	..	73	665	555	2,193	837	42	1,866	63,323
February ..	33,197	4,603	15,041	5,405	56	41	741	1,147	810	1,514	28	1,777	64,360
March ..	22,873	4,706	19,160	4,918	204	28	637	1,817	498	1,162	15	1,560	57,578
April ..	14,600	2,304	7,685	3,029	206	33	518	1,723	227	579	15	1,109	32,028
May ..	23,136	2,257	7,561	6,455	371	70	719	2,953	242	696	13	1,455	45,928
June ..	8,213	1,016	2,789	5,056	143	87	344	1,577	58	145	4	651	20,083
July ..	1,094	559	575	2,416	50	1,104	147	678	12	27	2	422	7,086
August ..	371	105	293	698	58	2,482	58	422	19	8	5	389	4,908
September ..	38	122	352	528	5	1,731	78	448	85	30	13	232	3,662
Season total	174,298	19,639	60,868	33,341	1,093	7,121	4,681	12,387	8,414	5,584	200	10,791	338,417

SHIPPING AND STORAGE

Although peak killings were earlier than usual, no serious storage problems were encountered owing to the excellent shipping programme during the period of heavy killings.

The following table shows particulars of frozen-meat shipments to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food month by month during the twelve months ended 30th September, 1946, together with a record of the shipments each season from 1939-40.