

NEW ZEALAND SHEARERS AND SHED HANDS—DETERMINATION OF COMMITTEE REGARDING RATES OF WAGES FOR 1956-57 SEASON

Award dated 6th July 1954 covering rates of wages for Shearers and Shed Hands for seasons 1954-55 and 1956-57 (inclusive).

PURSUANT to the above Award, a Committee consisting of Mr G. E. Wood, Government Statistician, Mr J. C. Adams, as representative of the Employers' Union, and Mr H. J. Allen, as representative of the Shearers' Union, announce as follows:

1. The Government Statistician's index number of average prices realised at New Zealand Auction Sales for greasy wool, calculated for the twelve months ended 31st May 1956 (taking as base price 9-41d. per lb. equals an index number of 1000) was 4900.

2. The rates of pay for the 1956-57 season will therefore be as follows:

*Shearers*

(a) The rate for shearing by machines shall not be less than £3-8-0 per 100, with rations.

(b) The rate for shearing lambs shall not be less than £3-8-0 per 100, with rations.

(c) The rate for shearing by hand shall not be less than 20 per cent in addition to the rate prescribed in subclauses (a) and (b) above, that is, not less than £4-1-7 per 100, with rations.

(d) The rate for pre-natal shearing of pregnant ewes shall be 10 per cent above those prescribed in subclauses (a) and (c) above, that is, not less than £3-14-10 by machines, and £4-9-9 by hand, both with rations.

(e) The rate for shearing stud sheep, stud lambs, and hogget rams shall be rate and a half, and for other rams double ordinary rate.

(f) The rate for shearing double-fleeced sheep and rams castrated after maturity shall be rate and one-half.

(g) In cases where the shearers find themselves in rations an allowance of 7s. 0d. per day shall be paid, this allowance to be paid on every day (Sundays and wet days included) from the commencement of the shed until the cut out: provided that during any period of interruption to the continuity of the employment this allowance shall not be paid to any employee who takes alternate work for another employer.

(h) Where five or more shearers are employed, an efficient expert, other than one of the shearers, shall do the experting. Where less than five shearers are employed and one of the shearers is engaged as expert, such expert, if required, shall cease shearing to repair a machine, and he shall only expert and grind during working hours and shall be paid by mutual arrangement.

*Crutching Rates*

The minimum rate for ordinary crutching shall be one quarter of the rates for shearing. Where top-knotting and eye-wigging is required to be done in addition to crutching, an extra 3s. 0d. per 100 sheep shall be paid. Rates for additional work shall be fixed by mutual agreement. Casual workers employed at crutching time shall be paid rates specified in subclauses (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) for shed hands, etc., following.

This clause shall not apply to members of the employer's family or to permanent workers.

*Provision of Tools*

Shearers who use their own hand pieces shall be paid an allowance at the rate of 1s. 0d. per 100 sheep shorn.

*Shed-Hands, etc.*

(a) Pressers—By the hour, 5s. 7d.

(b) Shed-hands—By the hour, 5s. 5d.

(c) Cooks—For 12 persons or under, at the rate of £1-18-0 per day. Where over 12 persons are employed the wages shall be increased by 3s. 0d. per week for each additional person required to be cooked for and where the number exceeds eighteen persons an assistant shall be employed; and where over twenty-eight persons have to be cooked for, the rate shall be by mutual arrangement.

(d) Cooks' Assistants—At the rate of £1-8-8 per day.

(e) A presser may work at a piecework rate to be agreed on with his employer, but so that he shall in any event be paid not less than the minimum hourly rates herein specified for the time actually worked by him.

(f) Each worker shall be provided with rations by his employer. In any case, where it is agreed between the employer and the worker that the worker shall provide his own rations, he shall be paid at the rate of 7s. 0d. per day in addition to the rates herein prescribed. This allowance shall be paid on every day (Sundays and wet days included) from the commencement of the shed until the cut out: Provided that during any period of interruption to the continuity of the employment this allowance shall not be paid to any employee who takes alternative work for another employer.

3. The foregoing rates will operate from 1st July 1956.

G. E. WOOD, Government Statistician.

J. C. ADAMS, Employers' Representative.

H. J. ALLEN, Shearers' Union Representative.

Department of Statistics,  
Wellington C. 1.  
5th June 1956.